伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

[4] 顔泥棒

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二●恐怖マンガCOLLECTION 4 顔泥棒

朝日ソノラマ

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朝日ソノラマ

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THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

[4]顔泥棒

顔泥棒
案山子
落下
赤い糸
ご先祖様
首吊り気球

THE HORROR WORLD OF JUNJI

伊藤潤二 恐怖マンガ Collection

朝日ソノラマ

伊藤潤二・恐怖マンガCOLLECTION④顔泥棒

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顔泥棒

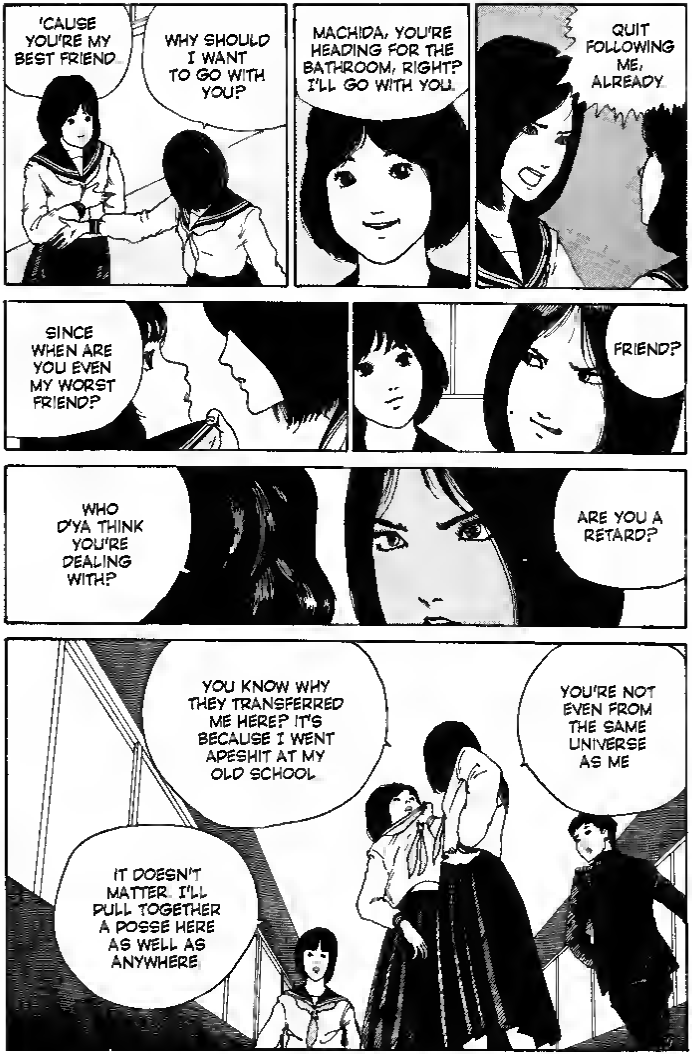
かおどろぼう

THE FACE BURGLAR

WHEN I FIRST LAID EYES ON THEM ..
町田由美
YUMI MACHIDA
.....I COULD HAVE SWORN THEY WERE TWINS.
RIGHT UP FRONT? MAKES IT EASIER TO KEEP TRACK OF ME, I GUESS.
MACHIDA, YOU CAN SIT HERE

SENSEI!
HM?
ER... YES, KAME!? WHAT IS IT?
IS IT OKAY IF I SIT NEXT TO MACHIDA?
I... I DON'T...
SENSEI!
COME ON! PLEASE?!
HEY, NOW!

WOULD YOU KINDLY SWAP SEATS WITH KAMEI?
YAMADA.
MMP
FINE WHATEVER.
OKAY.
HOWDY.
WHAT'S WITH THIS TWERP?
DO YOU MIND?!


'CAUSE YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND
WHY SHOULD I WANT TO GO WITH YOU?
MACHIDA, YOU'RE HEADING FOR THE BATHROOM, RIGHT? I'LL GO WITH YOU.
QUIT FOLLOWING ME, ALREADY.
SINCE WHEN ARE YOU EVEN MY WORST FRIEND?
FRIEND?
WHO D'YA THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH?
ARE YOU A RETARD?
YOU KNOW WHY THEY TRANSFERRED ME HERE? IT'S BECAUSE I WENT APESHIT AT MY OLD SCHOOL
YOU'RE NOT EVEN FROM THE SAME UNIVERSE AS ME
IT DOESN'T MATTER. I'LL PULL TOGETHER A POSSE HERE AS WELL AS ANYWHERE

MACHIDA... WHAT MAKES YOU SO PRETTY?
YOU JUST WATCH FOR THAT
...
WHAT THE FREAKIN' HELL?!
FREAKOID DITZ...
WHAT IS SHE PLAYING AT?

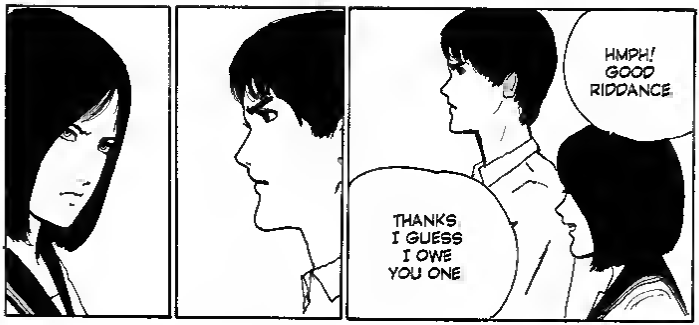
COME ON! PLEASE LET ME BE YOUR HENCHMAN-- HENCHWOMAN! I WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU
NO THANKS.
LISTEN, CINDERELLA, YOU'RE JUST NOT MY TYPE
TSK.
I SAID QUIT IT!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE?!
LOOK! ENOUGH ALREADY!
STEAL, BLACKMAIL, WHATEVER. YOU NAME IT.
I'LL DO ANY-THING.
YOU WANNA STEAL, GO DO IT ON YOUR OWN TIME.

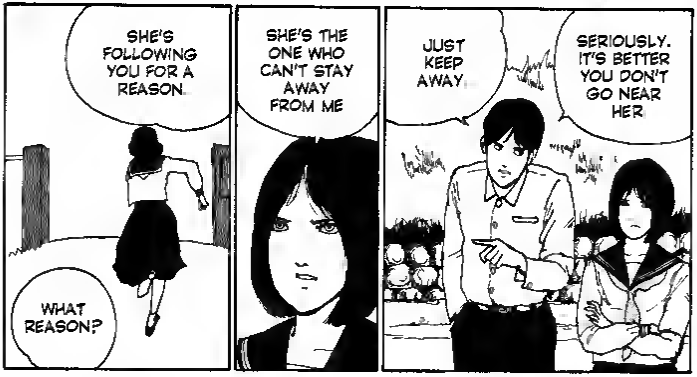
SHE'S DRIVING ME UP THE WALL.
CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING?
HEY, ABOUT THIS SISTER OF YOURS...
WHAAAT?!
THAT GIRL'S NOT MY SISTER
SHE'S AB-NORMAL. YOU DON'T WANT TO LET HER WAN-DER AROUND LIKE THIS.
SHE'S A COMPLETE STRANGER
I DIDN'T LIE, DID I?!
YOU LITTLE LIAR! LOOK, IT'S LIKE A MIRROR!

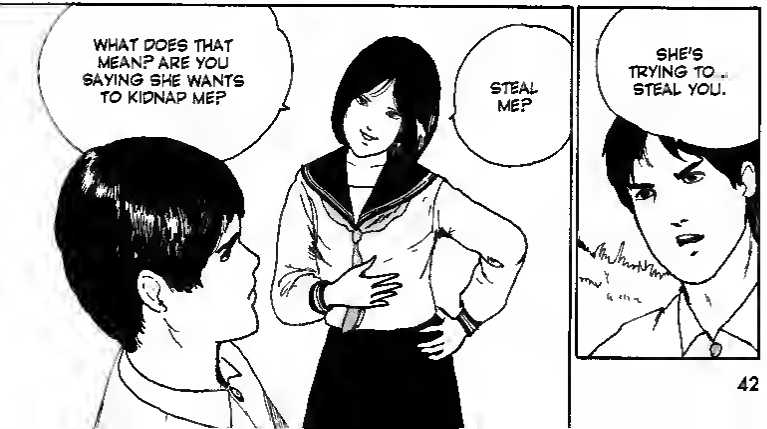
THAT'S NO LIE
NUH-UH..
YOU WANNA BE WITH ME?
OKAY, FINE
YES!
YES!
ALL RIGHT THEN C'MON OVER HERE

LET ME TEACH YOU A THING OR TWO.
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO NAIVE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
HERE.
ドス
CHUDD
HOW'S THAT? DOES IT HURT?
AWW IT HURTS
AND...
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE, ALL RIGHT?!
LEARNED ANYTHING YET?

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
QUIT IT. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THIS WOMAN.
HEY, KAMEI YOU STOP, TOO! GO ON, BEAT IT!
SAY WHAT?!
HEE HEE HEE
LA LAA.
THANKS FOR HELPING ME, HIBINO.
HEH HEH HEH

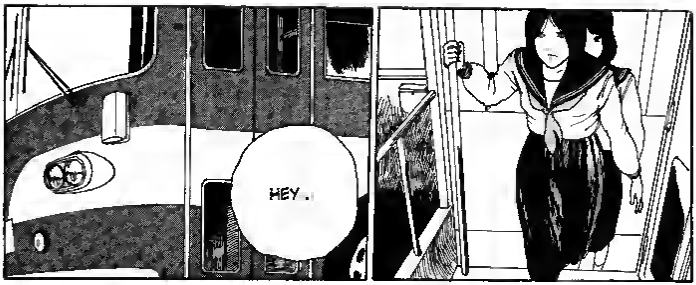

HMPH! GOOD RIDDANCE
THANKS I GUESS I OWE YOU ONE


SHE'S FOLLOWING YOU FOR A REASON.
WHAT REASON?
SHE'S THE ONE WHO CAN'T STAY AWAY FROM ME
JUST KEEP AWAY.
SERIOUSLY. IT'S BETTER YOU DON'T GO NEAR HER


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? ARE YOU SAYING SHE WANTS TO KIDNAP ME?
STEAL ME?
SHE'S TRYING TO... STEAL YOU.

HOW DO I EXPLAIN? SHE'S BIOLOGICALLY ABNORMAL.
NO, THAT'S NOT... IT.
HUFF HUFF
BIOLOGICALLY WHAT NOW?
MAN, YOU'RE A RIOT. AND SUCH A STRAIGHT FACE!
WHO'S THE ONE TRYING TO TAKE ME NOW?
AH HA HA

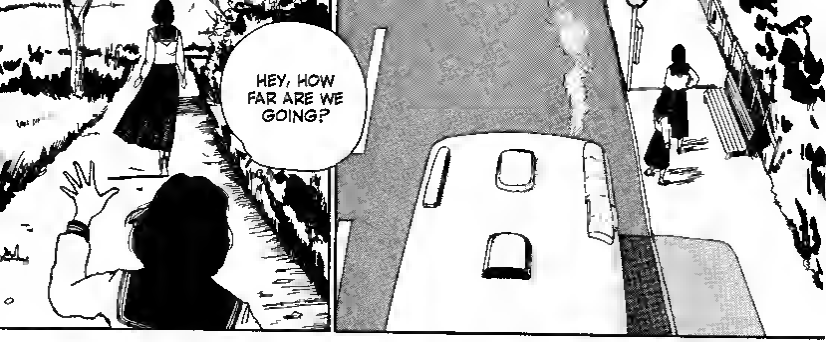
GOD, I'M SUR-ROUNDED BY PSY-CHOS
I GUESS YOU'D KNOW ABNORMAL WHEN YOU SAW IT.
DON'T TEST ME JACKASS
DIDN'T YOU LEARN?
HEY, CINDERELLA-- YOU NOT DONE YET?

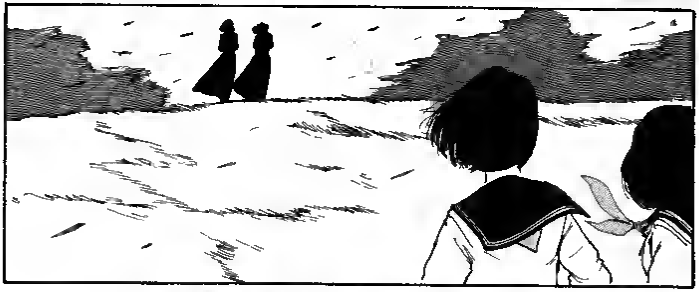

HEY..

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

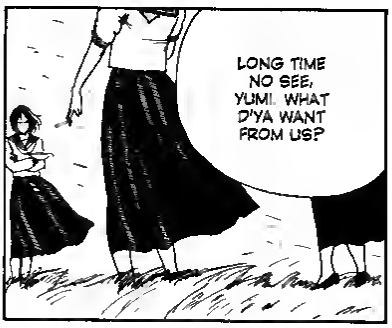
WHY ARE WE TAKING A BUS?
ブルルルル
VRRRR

SHE'S... BIOLOGICALLY ABNORMAL.
IT'S SOME KIND OF HEREDITARY DISORDER.
WHEN SHE SPENDS TOO LONG NEAR ANY ONE PERSON...
SHE CHANGES. HER FACE, HER WHOLE APPEARANCE ALTERS.
SHE TAKES ON A WHOLE NEW IDENTITY, LIKE A CHAMELEON.
BASICALLY, WHATEVER FACE SHE WANTS IS HERS FOR THE TAKING.
THEN SHE'LL HANG ON TO IT UNTIL SOMETHING BETTER COMES ALONG.
SINCE THEN SHE'S BEEN APPROACHING EVERY PRETTY GIRL IN SCHOOL. IT'S LIKE A KID IN A CANDY STORE.
AND SHE'S INSATIABLE. THE FIRST TIME I SAW HER, SHE LOOKED LIKE POP IDOL SEIKO MATSUDA. ALL SHE NEEDS TO GO ON IS A PICTURE.

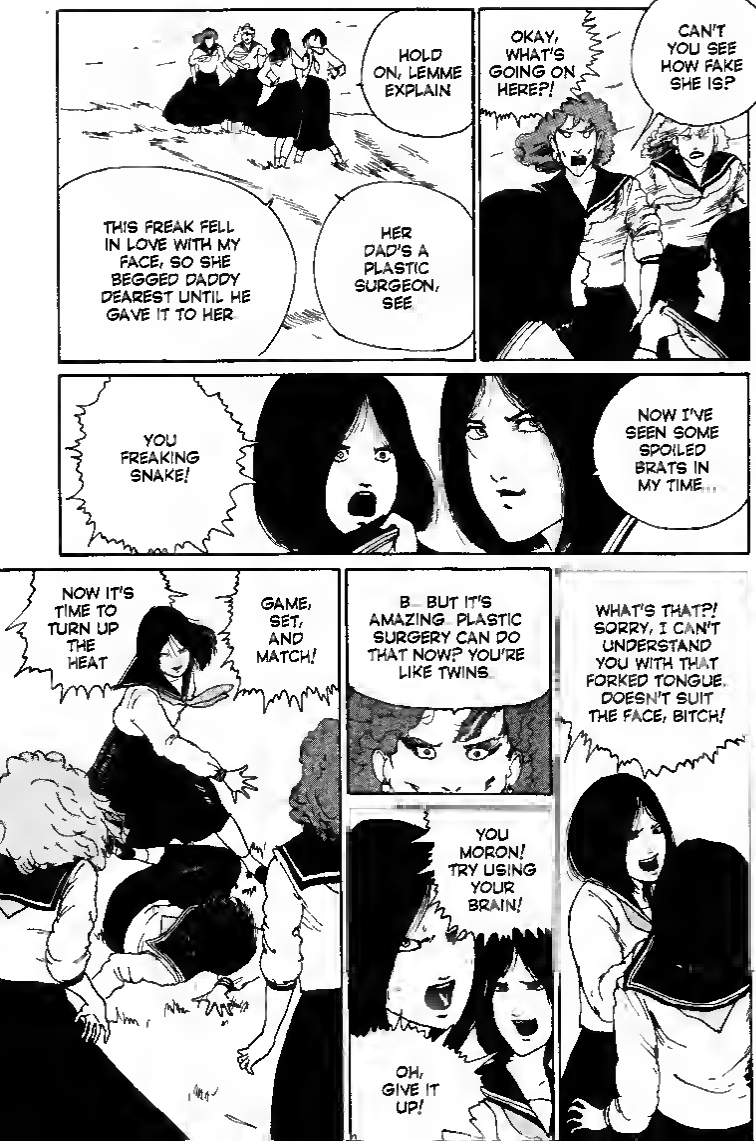

HEY, HOW FAR ARE WE GOING?



HEY, WHO'S THAT YOU GOT WITH YOU?


LONG TIME NO SEE, YUMI. WHAT D'YA WANT FROM US?

IT'S ME!
OH, HER? WHY, SHE'S...
YUMI... WHICH... WHICH ONE IS YUMI?
WHO ELSE COULD---
WHO ELSE COULD IT BE, YOU JERKS?

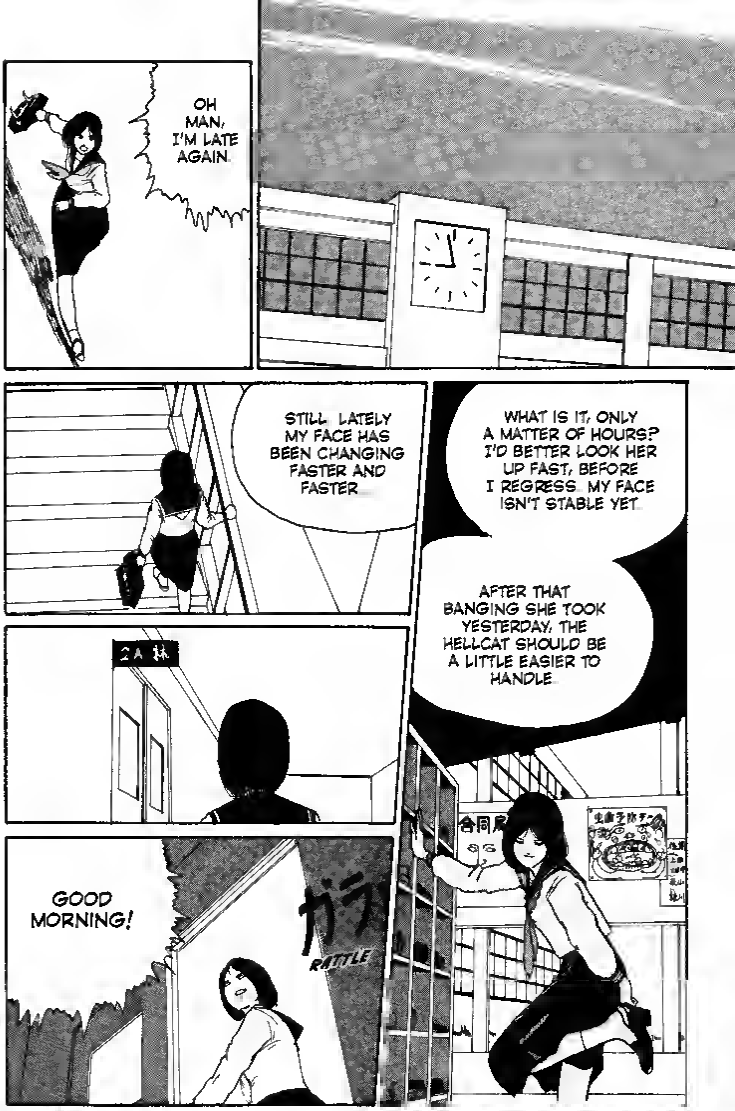

HOLD ON, LEMME EXPLAIN
THIS FREAK FELL IN LOVE WITH MY FACE, SO SHE BEGGED DADDY DEAREST UNTIL HE GAVE IT TO HER
HER DAD'S A PLASTIC SURGEON, SEE
OKAY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
CAN'T YOU SEE HOW FAKE SHE IS?
YOU FREAKING SNAKE!
NOW I'VE SEEN SOME SPOILED BRATS IN MY TIME...
NOW IT'S TIME TO TURN UP THE HEAT
GAME, SET, AND MATCH!
B... BUT IT'S AMAZING. PLASTIC SURGERY CAN DO THAT NOW? YOU'RE LIKE TWINS.
YOU MORON! TRY USING YOUR BRAIN!
OH, GIVE IT UP!
WHAT'S THAT?! SORRY, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU WITH THAT FORKED TONGUE. DOESN'T SUIT THE FACE, BITCH!

COME ON, MOVE YOUR DAMNED LEGS!
IS THAT...
MAN YOU'RE PATHETIC.
AH!
HEY! WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
OKAY, WHICH ONE'S KAMEI?

KAMEI? IS IT YOU?
DO YOU LIKE MY NEW FACE, HIBINO?
WHAT DID YOU... DO?
HIBINO..
I WANT TO BE PRETTY FOR YOU
LISTEN, I'M DOING THIS ALL FOR YOU
FREAK-ASS BITCH..
YOU OKAY? HEY...

DON'T IGNORE ME! HIBINO!
YOU'RE BLEEDING.
BUT YOU STILL DON'T NOTICE ME, DO YOU.
NOW YOU LISTEN. I HAVE NO INTEREST IN STOLEN BEAUTY.
CUT IT OUT!
I CAN'T JUST CHANGE BACK. THAT'S NOT HOW IT WORKS
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
COME SEE ME WHEN YOU'RE YOURSELF.

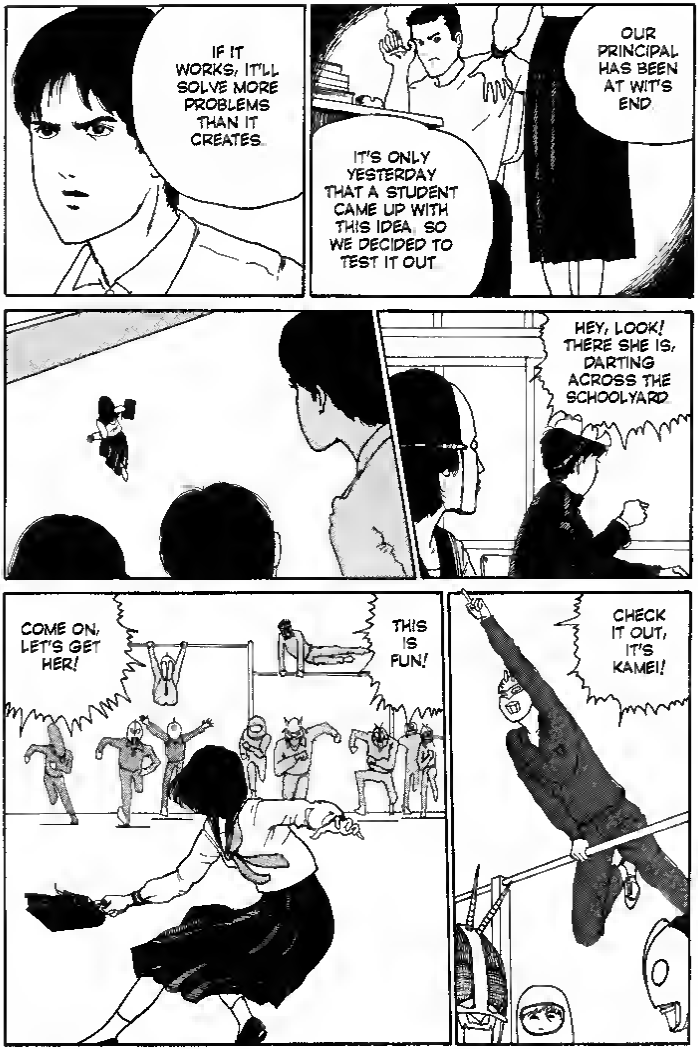
WHAT ARE YOU TELLING ME? YOU WANT ME TO PUT MYSELF IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT?
WELL, I TAKE IT BACK I GUESS IT IS POSSIBLE BUT THAT MEANS I'LL HAVE TO COMPLETELY ISOLATE MYSELF FROM EVERYONE
I FIGURE I MIGHT AS WELL SINGLE OUT THE PRETTY ONES. MAKE THE BEST OF IT.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN HELP IT. WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT, PEOPLE AFFECT ME EVERY DAY.
YOU DON'T...
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.


OH MAN, I'M LATE AGAIN.
STILL LATELY MY FACE HAS BEEN CHANGING FASTER AND FASTER.
WHAT IS IT, ONLY A MATTER OF HOURS? I'D BETTER LOOK HER UP FAST, BEFORE I REGRESS. MY FACE ISN'T STABLE YET.
AFTER THAT BANGING SHE TOOK YESTERDAY, THE HELLCAT SHOULD BE A LITTLE EASIER TO HANDLE.
2A 林
GOOD MORNING!
ガラ
RATTLE

YEAH?
OH, IT'S YOU, KAME! GO ON, SIT DOWN
SENSEI!
SEN...
YOU... YOU GUYS...

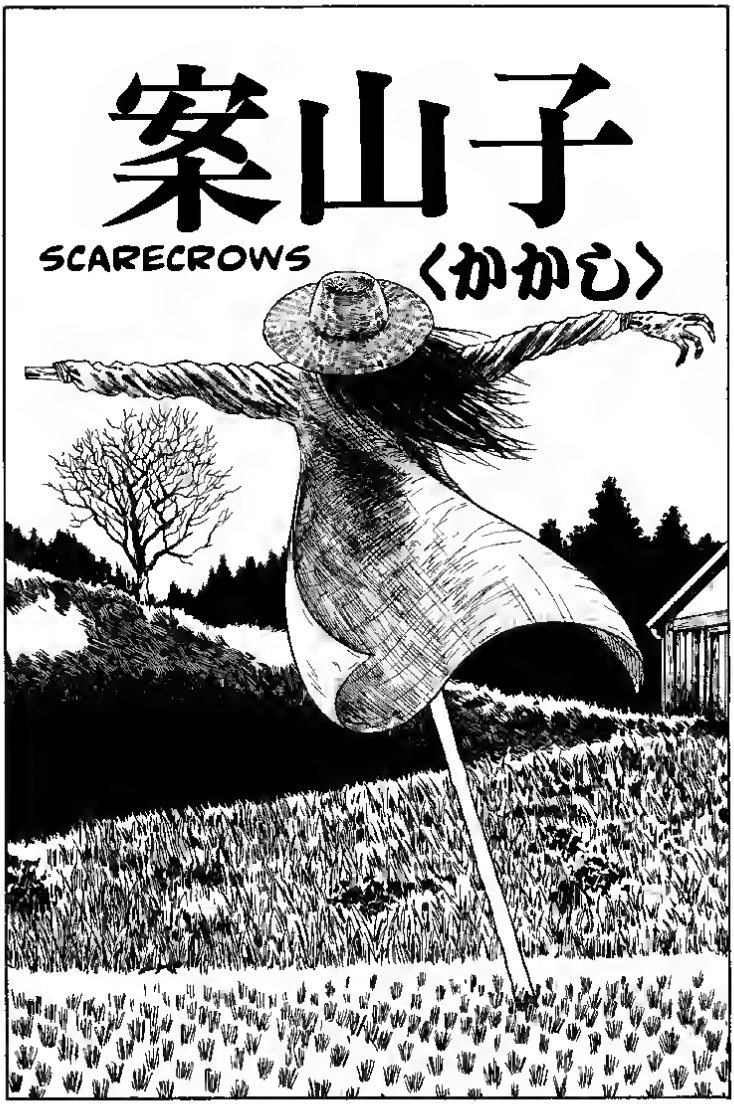
SHIT
WHAT'S WRONG, KAMEI? COME SIT WITH US
BINGO! I GOT HER!
PAK
AH HA HA HA
HEY--YOU PLAY WITH FIRE, YOU GET BURNED!
IT'S THE WAY OF THE JUNGLE!
EVEN YOU CAN'T HANDLE THIS, CAN YOU?
THERE'S NO USE TRYING ANOTHER CLASS!

SHE'S COMING
HIBINO, WHERE'S YOUR MASK? AREN'T YOU GONNA WEAR IT?
2E 榎村
YOU KNOW THIS WILL COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU
THE WAY THE WHOLE SCHOOL IS GANGING UP ON A SINGLE STUDENT...
SENSEI, TELL ME--WHY ARE YOU WEARING A MASK?
WHAT?
SHE ISN'T REALLY A STUDENT AT ALL
WELL, THE THING IS...
AND AS YOU CAN SEE, WITH HER CUNNING AND HER ..WELL, THE WAY SHE IS...WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET RID OF HER
PERHAPS YOU'RE UNAWARE SHE'S BEEN COMING TO SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW
NO ONE KNOWS WHO SHE IS, WHERE SHE COMES FROM... SHE'S PROBABLY MUCH OLDER THAN ANY OF YOU...


IF IT WORKS, IT'LL SOLVE MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT CREATES.
OUR PRINCIPAL HAS BEEN AT WIT'S END.
IT'S ONLY YESTERDAY THAT A STUDENT CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA, SO WE DECIDED TO TEST IT OUT.
HEY, LOOK! THERE SHE IS, DARTING ACROSS THE SCHOOLYARD.
COME ON, LET'S GET HER!
THIS IS FUN!
CHECK IT OUT, IT'S KAMEI!

WAIT!
AHHH...
NOOO!
THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH.
I'D BETTER STOP THEM
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!

THIS FAST ?!
NO WAY
HIBI-NO
KRAK
KRAK
SPOOM
M... MIRROR! GIVE ME A MIRROR!!
WHA... WHAT THE HELL ...?
HIBI-NO


案山子
SCARECROWS
〈かかし〉

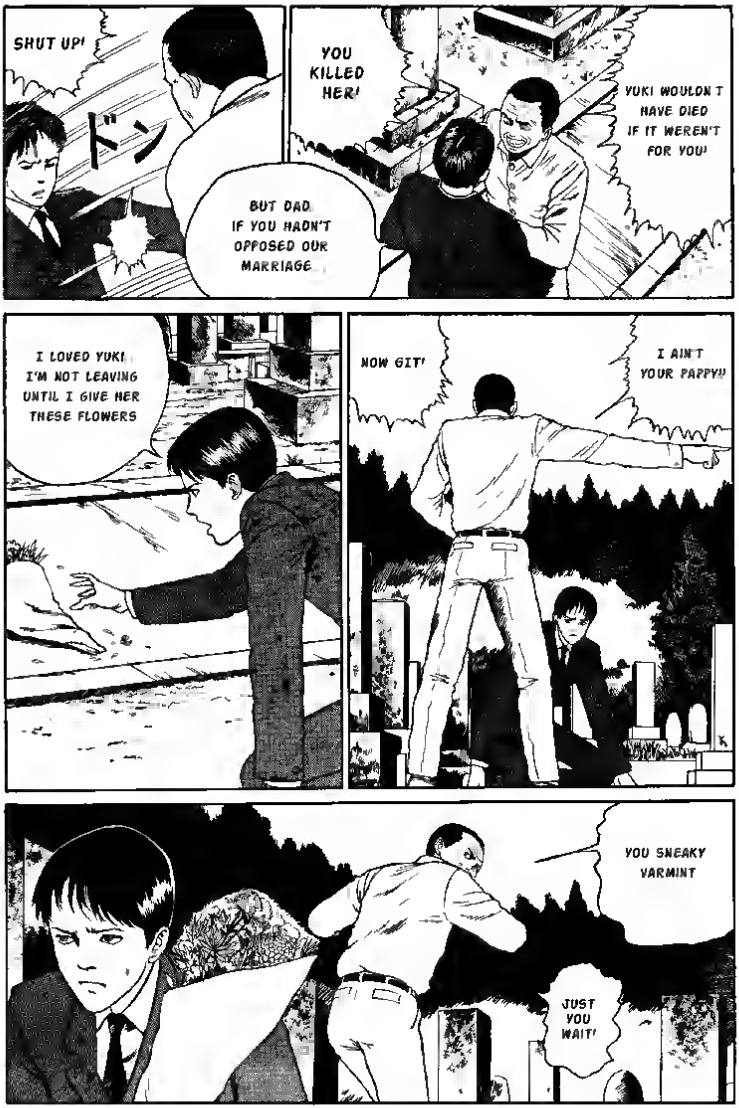
U-HU HU ...
U-HU HU ...
FIRST HE LOOSES HIS WIFE, THEN HIS DAUGTHER
I HEARD IT WAS A SUICIDE
WHAT A PITY ...
THERE GOES THE FUNERAL PROCESSION FOR NUMATA'S DAUGHTER

BEATS ME
WHATEVER HAPPENED WITH THAT? THERE WAS A HUGE RUCKUS ABOUT HOW HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MURDERED
THEY FOUND THE BODY BY THE RIVER
I THINK HIS NAME WAS SHIGERU.
WE'VE SEEN OUR FAIR SHARE OF FUNERALS LATELY. THERE WAS THAT BOY WHO DIED RECENTLY...
BROTHER IN LAW
WAHH
WE NEED TO BURY YUKI... OTHERWISE SHE CAN'T GO TO HEAVEN
WAHH...
YUKI...
WAHH
WAHH
WAHH

WOO-HOO!
HA HA HA!
I CAN'T IMAGINE HIS GRIEF.
HE'S HERE AGAIN TODAY... IT'S BEEN WEEKS SINCE THE FUNERAL!
HA HA HA!
WOO-HOO!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? SHE WAS HIS ONLY DAUGHTER

HEY. CHECK IT OUT
HAHAHA!
YOU PUT IT UP TO SCARE BIRDS AND STUFF OUT OF YOUR FIELD
YOU DON'T KNOW? IT'S A SCARECROW YOU DWEEB.
WHAT IS THAT?
A SCARE-CROW?
NO WAY! IT'S CREEPY.
LET'S GO IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!
DON'T BE A WIMP! IT'S JUST A SCARECROW.

ザッ
WHAT DO YOU WANT !?
YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE SHOWING UP HERE BOY
I'VE COME TO GIVE THESE FLOWERS TO YUKI
バサッ
バシッ


SHUT UP!
ドン
BUT DAD IF YOU HADN'T OPPOSED OUR MARRIAGE
YOU KILLED HER!
YUKI WOULDN'T HAVE DIED IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU!
I LOVED YUKI I'M NOT LEAVING UNTIL I GIVE HER THESE FLOWERS
NOW GIT!
I AIN'T YOUR PAPPY!!
YOU SNEAKY VARMINT
JUST YOU WAIT!

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE
IT'S ME TOSHIO
YUKI
ザッ
ザッ
AHH!

IT KEEPS VARMINTS LIKE YOU AWAY!
SEE THIS HERE SCARECROW?
WHA— WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
I BEG YOUR PARDON.
NOW GIT! YOU LOUSY GOOD-FURNUTHIN!

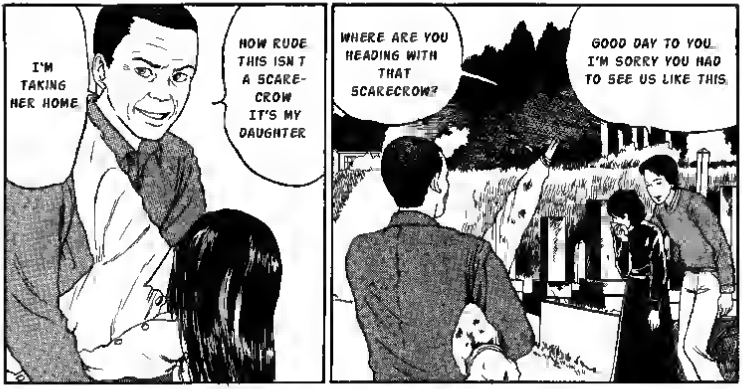
BEATS ME
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SCARECROW THAT WAS STANDING HERE?
HEEEY!
WHADD YA WANT?
THOSE DAMN KIDS AND THEIR PRANKS!
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! HOW DID IT GET ALL THE WAY OVER THERE?
MY MISTAKE
THIS ISN'T OUR SCARE-CROW
HUH?
WHAT KIND OF ROTTEN BRAT WOULD PUT A SCARECROW ON SOMEONE'S GRAVE?

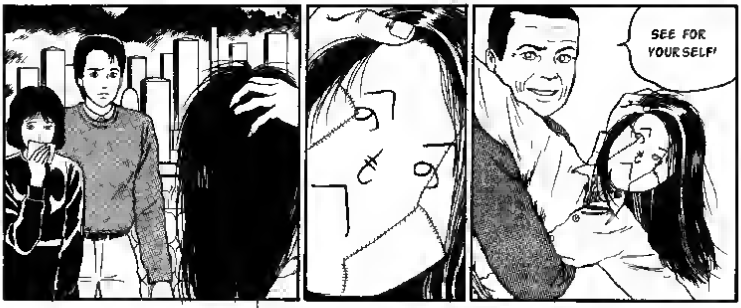
AH... SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS!
THAT'S STRANGE
AND-
HUH?
I TOOK IT WITHOUT ASKING SEE THERE WAS THIS LITTLE INCIDENT...
I'M NUMATA... THAT SCARECROW BELONGS TO YOU...
沼田家代

ヒュー
ヒュー
IT'S ONLY BEEN FOUR DAYS
BUT I CAN ALREADY SEE A CHANGE
YUKI
IT'S MY YUKI

YUKI
SAY
SOMETHING
YUKI...
YUKI...
YUKI...
DO YOU
RECOGNIZE
ME?
IT'S ME
YOUR
FATHER!
LET'S GET
YOU DOWN
FROM THERE
グイ
YUKI!
YUKI
SAY SOMETHING
ANYTHING!

SOB
SOB
LET'S GO HOME SETSUKO YOUR GRIEF WON'T BRING SHIGERU BACK
SOB
SOB
HOW COULD A CHILD AS CAREFUL AS SHIGERU DROWN IN THE RIVER?
OH DARLING, DO YOU THINK IT WAS REALLY AN ACCIDENT?
COME ON NOW
TELL YOURSELF IT WAS AN ACCIDENT— IT'S EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAT WAY


I'M TAKING HER HOME
HOW RUDE THIS ISN'T A SCARE-CROW IT'S MY DAUGHTER
WHERE ARE YOU HEADING WITH THAT SCARECROW?
GOOD DAY TO YOU... I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE US LIKE THIS

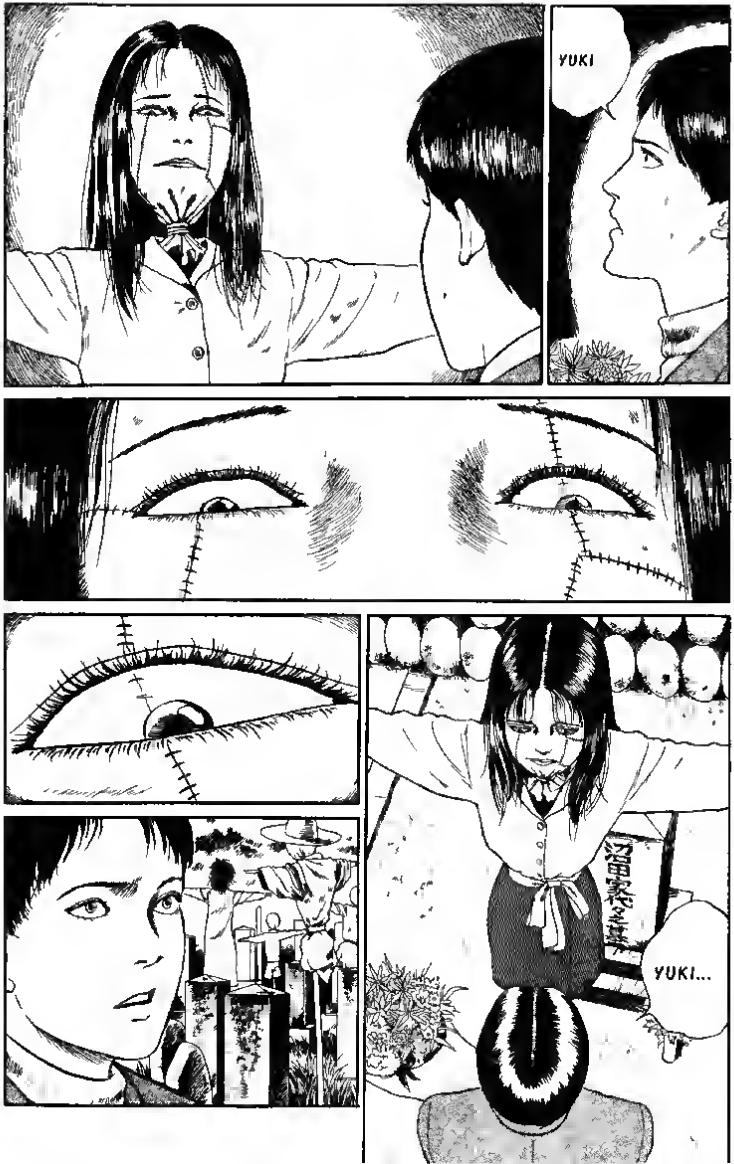

SEE FOR YOURSELF!

YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE US

ワイワイ
ガヤガヤ
SO WHAT? WHY ALL THE HOOTENANNY OVER A SCARECROW?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU SEE IT COME ON LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
WHAT ABOUT THE GRAVEYARD?
THERE'S A SCARE-CROW IN IT
BUT WHY WOULD YOU STICK IT IN FRONT OF SOMEONE'S GRAVE?
WHOEVER MADE IT DID A GOOD JOB
IT SURE LOOKS LIKE NUMATA'S DAUGHTER ALRIGHT
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL
WHAT!?
NOBODY MADE IT. THE SCARECROW TURNED INTO IT.

MY DAUGHTER'S SOUL FOUND ITSELF A NEW HOME
AIN'T IT THE SPITTIN' IMAGE?
HOWDY FOLKS!
YUKI YOU'RE LOOKING AWFULLY PURDY!
BUT SHE WON'T RESPOND TO ME NO MATTER WHAT I SAY
IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D SAY SHE WAS BREATHING
SEEMS LIKE SHE NEEDS TO BE STANDING BY HER GRAVE
I TRIED TAKING HER BACK HOME BUT SHE TURNED BACK INTO A SCARECROW
I FIGURED THE LEAST I COULD DO WAS DRESS HER IN THE CLOTHES SHE USED TO LIKE

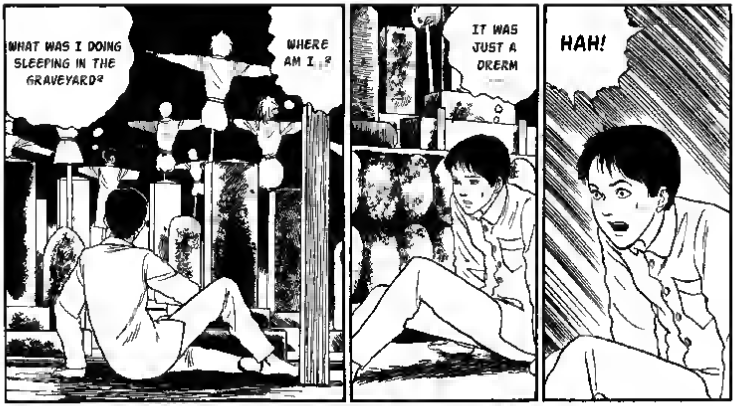
MOTHER... MOTHER TALK TO ME!
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE SCARECROWS...?
IT'S COME QUITE A WAYS. IT'LL LOOK LIKE MY BROTHER IN ANOTHER FOUR OR FIVE DAYS
SAY HELLO TO YOUR GRANDFATHER KIDS.
YUKI...
YOU PUT UP A SCARE-CROW IN FRONT OF SOMEONE'S GRAVE AND IT STARTS TO LOOK LIKE THEM.
HOW MYST-ERIOUS...


YUKI
YUKI...

STOP IT! DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BIZARRE TO PUT A SCARECROW ON SOMEONE'S GRAVE?
LET GO OF ME!
DON'T DO IT SETSUKO!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'M THE ONLY ONE!
I'M DOING IT TO BRING SHIGERU BACK!
COME ON! SCARECROWS THAT LOOK LIKE DEAD PEOPLE?!
DOESN'T IT CREEP YOU OUT?
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S JUST A SCARECROW! I WANT TO SEE HIM AGAIN
EVEN IF IT LOOKS LIKE HIM IT'S STILL A SCARECROW! DON'T DISILLUSION YOURSELF!
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE PEOPLE WHO PUT THEM UP!
AND THEY'RE JUST STANDING THERE WITH THOSE HOLLOW FACES.

SETSUKO
WHY ARE YOU REACTING LIKE THIS? DO YOU HAVE A REASON YOU DON'T WANT ME TO PUT IT UP?
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE NOT HIS REAL FATHER!
SHIGERU IS MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD! YOU'RE THE ONE ACTING CREEPY!
I... I FEEL BAD ABOUT SHIGERU TOO
THEN LET ME DO THIS!
A REASON? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT THEN GO AHEAD AND DO IT!
I'VE GOT NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY CAN TALK
ポンポン

TOSHIO
TOSHIO
LET'S GET MARRIED I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR FATHER SAYS.
YOU MEAN IT?
YUKI
YUKI
YOU WERE ALIVE THE WHOLE TIME?
EVEN IF I LOOK LIKE THAT?
OF COURSE I MEAN IT! I'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU AGAIN.


WHAT WAS I DOING SLEEPING IN THE GRAVEYARD?
WHERE AM I...?
IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
HAH!

I WAS HERE IN THE AFTERNOON BUT I KNOW I WENT HOME AFTERWARDS...

COULD I HAVE COME BACK WITHOUT REALIZING IT?

WHISPER
WHISPER
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. YOU'RE JUST A SCARECROW
DID YOU BRING ME HERE?
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHAT IS THIS?
WHISPER
WHISPER

SOMEBODY HELP ME!
WHISPER WHISPER
WHISPER WHISPER
AHH!
HAH ...
HAH ...
HAH HAH
HAH HAH
HAH HAH
ナナナ

HAH
HOW DID I...?
AH!
AAUGH!!
I'M SURE SHE'LL APPRECIATE IT
RECKON IT GETS MIGHTY COLD AT NIGHT SO I BROUGHT HER A JACKET
HOWDY MR. NUMATA! OFF TO SEE YOUR DAUGHTER?
YUP! IT'S GETTING TO BE A HABIT
HUHR
カア カア カア

WHAT IN TARNATION!?
YOU ALRIGHT THERE HONEY?
HE'S A GONER.
.....
AH! DON'T TELL ME...

MY GOODNESS
WHY IS SHIGERU MAKING THAT AWFUL FACE?
WHY...?
HE'S LOOKING AT YOU...
HE LOOKS TERRIFIED...
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS
I TOLD YOU IT WAS A BAD IDEA!
HOW... HOW SHOULD I KNOW...?

URK!
SEE?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
HIS EYES ARE FILLED WITH HATE!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO SHIGEKU?
ズボ
GET OUTTA MY WAY!
AHH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING! STOP IT!
I'M GOING TO TEAR THIS THING RIGHT OUT OF THE GROUND!
ガッ

ガサ
ゴゴ
WOAH!
AHHH!
HONEY!?

SCARECROWS - END

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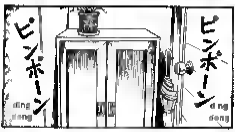
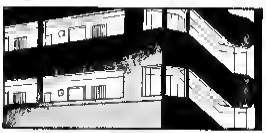
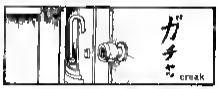
落下 Falling

A disturbing atmosphere enveloped things.
At the beginning of this year, an unexplainable rash of suicides began in the town.







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落下 Falling

WHY WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME DIE?...
SHE'S DELIRIOUS
THANK GOD A LITTLE LONGER AND YOUR WIFE WOULDN'T HAVE MADE IT
I FOUND HER JUST AS SHE TRIED TO HANG HERSELF
S.G.N. Hospital
BUT IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE
NURSE SHE DID LEAVE A NOTE BEHIND, SORT OF
WHY DID SHE WANT TO KILL HERSELF? I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT...
YEAH
SOMETHING STRANGE ?
"SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING TO HAPPEN IN THIS TOWN." THAT'S ALL SHE WROTE.

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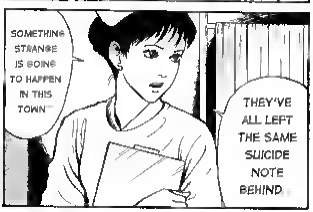

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IT SEEMS SHE SLIPPED OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT DIDN'T SHE COME HOME?
ERIKA'S GONE?
SIGN Hospital
the next day
WHAT?
FRANKLY, A NUMBER OF OTHER PATIENTS DISAPPEARED LAST NIGHT
NO, SHE DIDN'T
WE'VE GOT TO GET THE TOWN TOGETHER AND SEARCH FOR THEM.
THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST GONE?
IT'S MADNESS- ALL THE YOUTHS DISAPPEARING INTO THE NIGHT
DON'T YOU REALIZE? THIS WHOLE TOWN IS DISTURBED
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

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EVEN IF IT WAS SOME MASS DISTURBANCE, WOULDN'T AT LEAST SOMEONE HAVE SEEN THEM?
HOW COULD A WHOLE GROUP OF PEOPLE JUST DISAPPEAR?
病院
ガヤガヤ chatter
S-GN Hospital
WHAT? YOU FOUND ONE OF THEM?
QUICK, LET'S CHECK IT OUT!
WE FOUND SOMEONE OVER BY THAT HILL!
HEY!
ガヤガヤ tap tap
ガヤガヤ tap tap
タッ pit pat

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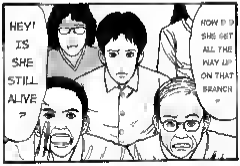

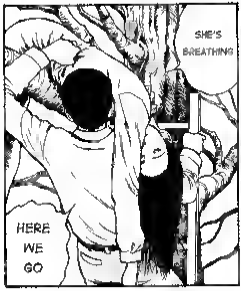

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WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME DIE?
IT'S AWFUL, IT'S HORRIBLE
401
WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?
THOSE TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE THAT JUST DISAPPEARED THAT NIGHT
THE DOCTORS SAY THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY IT'S JUST FATIGUE
SHE'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR TWO DAYS NOW

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YES...WE KNOW THEY ALL GATHERED ON THAT HILL, BUT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT. THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF THEM—THIS CAVE IS THE NEAREST PLACE THEY COULD'VE VANISHED TO.
YOU THINK THE MISSING PEOPLE MIGHT HAVE GONE INTO THIS CAVE?
AND THEN WHAT?
WE'LL HAVE TO CHECK IT OUT.
BUT...WHY WOULD THEY GO IN THERE?
I CAN'T IMAGINE THAT MY SON WOULD JOIN A CULT.
MY DAUGHTER EITHER.
TAKING A STRANGE GROUP PILGRIMAGE DOES SOUND LIKE A CULT.
MAYBE IT'S LIKE A RELIGION...SOME SORT OF CULT?"

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samchat.blogspot.com

OH IT S FILLED WITH WATER THERE S NO WAY TO GET PAST
THAT'S RIGHT WHERE WAS SHE ALL THIS TIME?
HOW COME WE'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO FIND THAT ONE GIRL? SHE MUST KNOW SOMETHING
IT'S ANOTHER DEAD END
WHERE COULD MY DAUGHTER HAVE GONE
UNNH

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samehat blogspot com

YOUR WIFE SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY ONE THEY'VE FOUND WE JUST WANT TO MEET WITH HER
AND SO
IT MAY NOT HELP BUT WE'D LIKE TO ASK HER SOME THINGS
THE ENTIRE TOWN IS UNEASY. THE FAMILIES OF THE MISSING ARE SUFFERING. CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT
ACTUALLY HER CONDITION REMAINS UNCHANGED
THE POLICE CAME BY TOO
I DON'T THINK IT'S EVEN WORTH TRYING TO TALK TO HER BUT COME ON IN ANYWAY
HER CONDITION?

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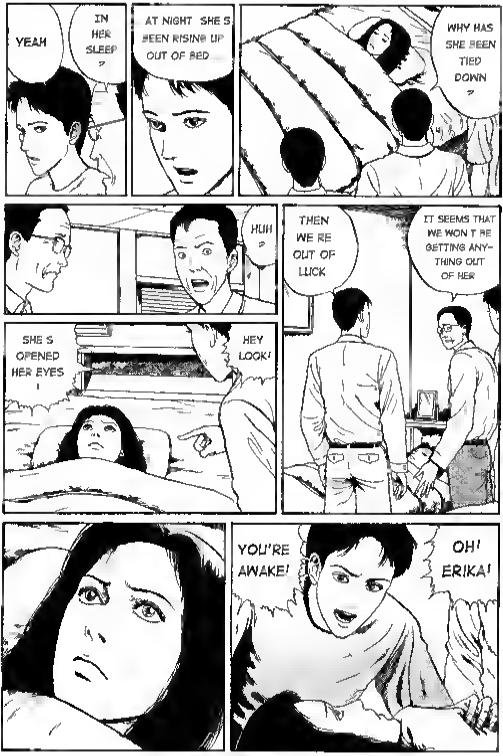
YEAH
IN HER SLEEP?
AT NIGHT SHE'S BEEN RISING UP OUT OF BED...
WHY HAS SHE BEEN TIED DOWN?
HUH?
THEN WE'RE OUT OF LUCK
IT SEEMS THAT WE WON'T BE GETTING ANYTHING OUT OF HER
SHE'S OPENED HER EYES!
HEY LOOK!
YOU'RE AWAKE!
OH! ERIKA!

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落下 Falling

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I RECOGNIZE HIM HE'S ONE OF THE ONES THAT DISAPPEARED
THERE'S NOT EVEN A CLOUD...
JUST FELL DOWN FROM THE SKY...
HOW COULD SOMEONE SUDDENLY FALL LIKE THAT?
LIKE HE WITNESSED SOME UN-SPEAKABLE HORROR
THAT TWISTED GRIMACE
YOU HAVE TO SEE THIS BOY'S FACE
THAT LOOK...

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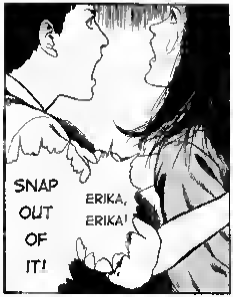

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PLEASE WHY CAN T ANYONE EXPLAIN THIS
IT MUST BE THREE OF THE MISSING
WE CAN T JUST SIT BY IDLY I CAN T STAND THIS!
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?
GASP
IT S NO JOKE AT THIS RATE MY OWN SON WILL COME FALLING DOWN

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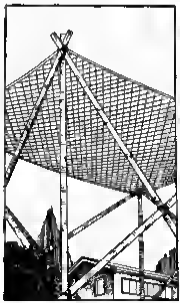

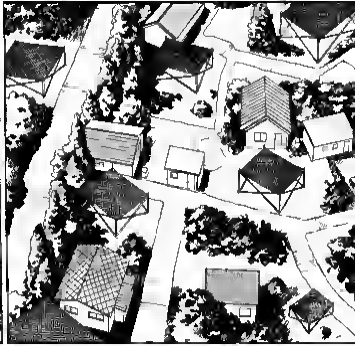

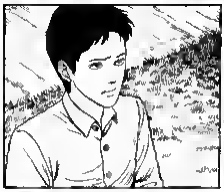

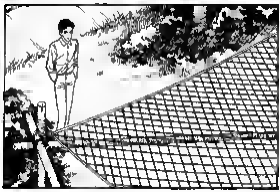

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THEY'RE SAYING THERE'LL BE EVEN MORE FALLING
MAYBE IT COULD SAVE 2 OR 3
THEY THINK IT'LL SAVE 'EM WHEN THEY FALL?
THESE THINGS ARE A JOKE
I MEAN AFTER FALLING FROM SUCH A TERRIBLE HEIGHT
SAY SOMEBODY DID FALL IN THE NET WHO SAYS THEY'D EVEN BE ALIVE?
THEY ALL MET UP ON THE HILL
THAT NIGHT I TAILED THEM
THEN JUST AFTER THAT...
I'D KEPT MY MOUTH SHUT BUT MAYBE THEY'LL BELIEVE ME NOW?
I... I SAW WHERE THEY WENT THAT NIGHT.

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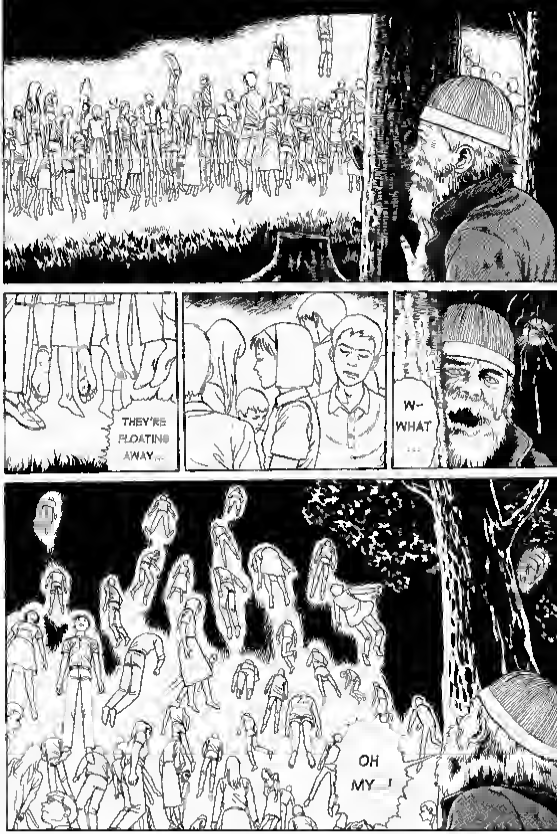

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I HID BEHIND A TREE EACH ONE OF THEM ROSE UP AND THEN --- GONE
IT WAS LIKE A DAMN DREAM THEY WHIRLED UP INTO THE NIGHT SKY
NO, I BELIEVE YOU
YOU THINK I M CRAZY
IT'S NOT FOR US TO KNOW
I GUESS IT'S UP TO THE GODS
AND WHY ARE THEY FALLING BACK ONE BY ONE?
BUT WHY DID THIS HAPPEN HERE? WHY JUST THE YOUTH AND WHY THERE? WHY'D THEY RISE UP AND DISAPPEAR?

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WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO HER?
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
Tap Tap Tap
THIS WHOLE NIGHTMARE IS HER FAULT!
WHAT ?
WE HAVE TO KILL THIS GIRL!!
STAY BACK!
DON'T GET IN OUR WAY!
STOP THIS IDIOCY!
KILLING HER ISN'T GOING TO HELP ANYONE!
YEAH, SHE CAUSED ALL THIS! SHE FORETOLD EVERY PERSON THAT FELL FROM THE SKY!

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落下 Falling

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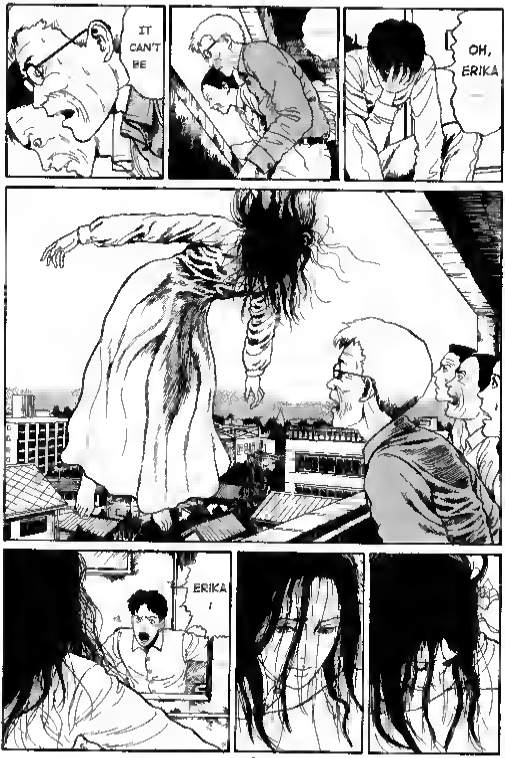

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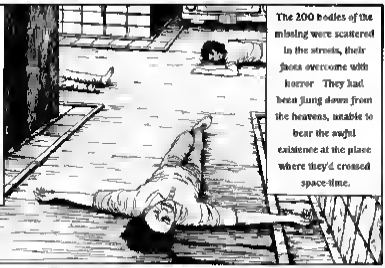
The townspeople struggled to grasp what the disappeared had seen there. Why had they been forced to encounter such a site?

To this day no one knows



The 200 bodies of the missing were scattered in the streets, their faces overcome with horror. They had been flung down from the heavens, unable to bear the awful existence at the place where they'd crossed space-time.

Perhaps she'll come falling down someday

Erika's body has still not appeared.

落下 Falling * end.

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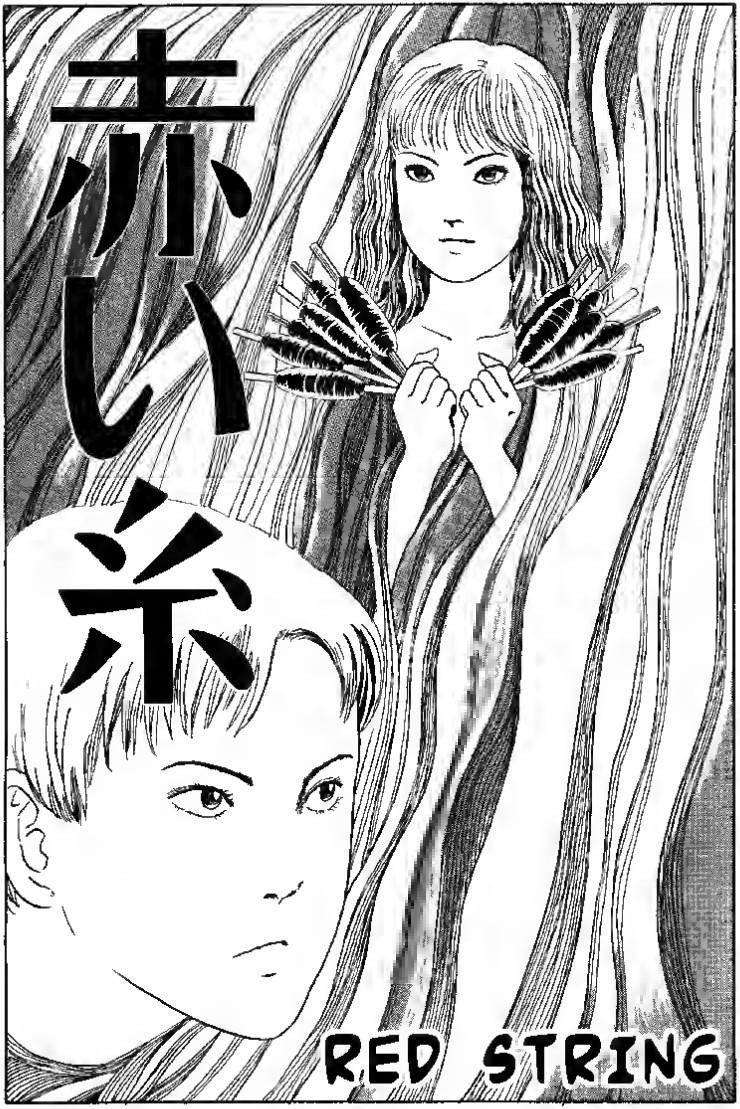
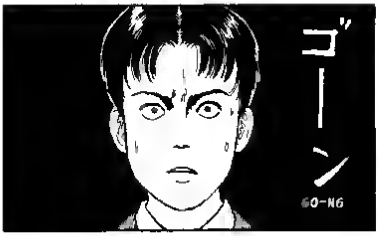
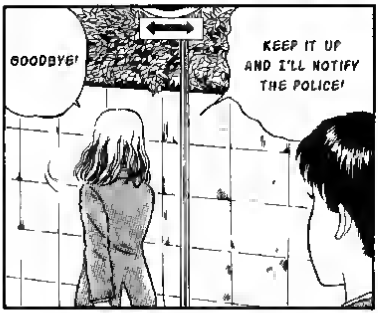
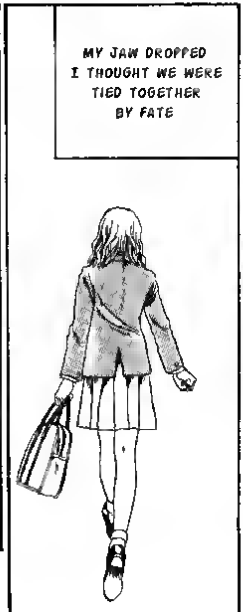

赤い糸
RED STRING


ゴーン
GO-NG

I WANT YOU TO STAY AWAY FROM ME ISHII!


GOODBYE!
KEEP IT UP AND I'LL NOTIFY THE POLICE!

I DIDN'T GET UP FOR THE NEXT THREE DAYS


MY JAW DROPPED I THOUGHT WE WERE TIED TOGETHER BY FATE

AND THAT'S HOW I FOUND MYSELF DUMPED BY MOMOKO SAKURA!
MOMOKO...

MOMOKO AND I HAD DATED FOR A YEAR
SHE WAS SMART AND BEAUTIFUL MY IDEAL GIRL
UWAH...
UH HU HU ...
HAVING LOST HER ALL I COULD DO WAS CRY
BUT I STARTED TO FEEL BETTER IN THREE DAYS TIME
TOMOU HONEY HOW'S YOUR COLD?
I'M OVER IT I'LL GO BACK TO SCHOOL TOMMORROW
WHY DO I ALWAYS GET OVER THINGS SO FAST?
TOMMORROW IT'S BACK TO THE DAILY GRIND
GOD-DAMNIT
WAH!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING I OVERSLEPT
SEE YOU TONIGHT!

PHEW!
JUST IN TIME.
2
キーンコーン
DING-DONG
カーンコ
YEAH RIGHT! I HAD THE FLU
YOU HAD US WORRIED SKIPPING SCHOOL 'CUZ YOU GOT DUMPED BY MOMOKO!
YOU CAN BE HONEST WITH US! HOW'S YOUR BROKEN HEART?
AH!
FINALLY DECIDED TO COME TO SCHOOL HUH?
LOOK WHO IT IS!

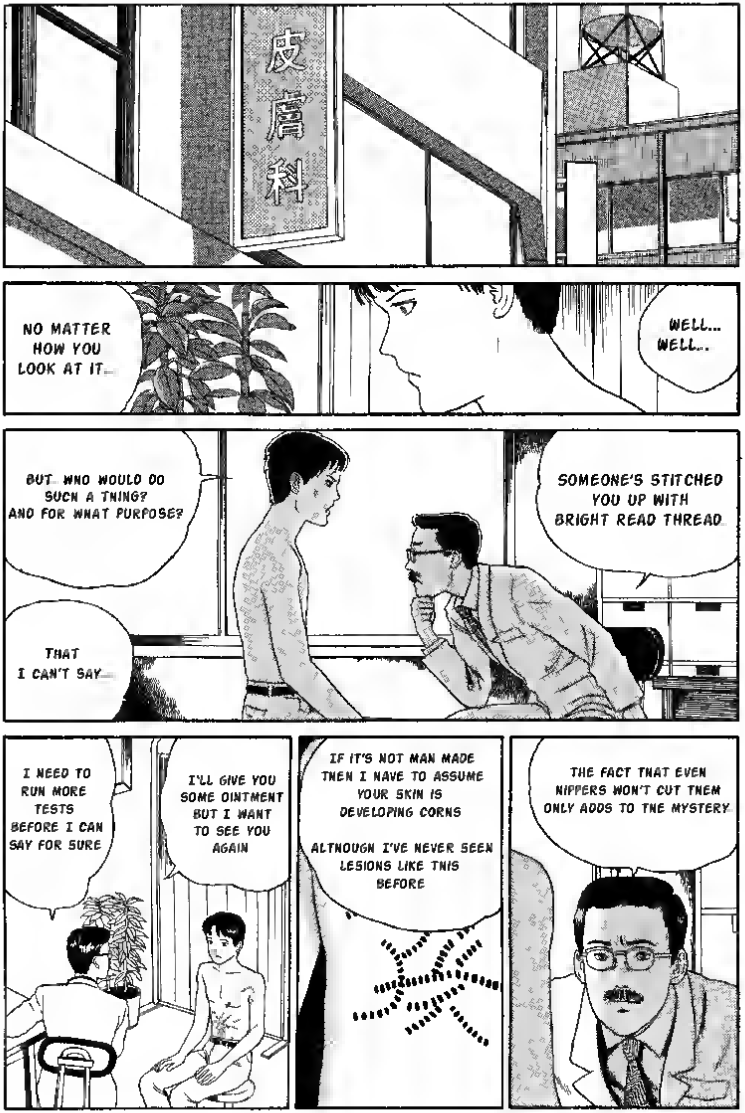
……
LET ME SEE THE SCAR!
PSSH CUT THE CRAP!
WE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE TRIED KILLING YOURSELF! SLIT YOUR WRISTS OR SOMETHING.
AH!
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN!?
DO TO WHAT?
?
THAT'S NOT FUNNY MAN
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?
WHAT THE HELL
WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?
GIMMIE' A BREAK! LIKE I WOULD CUT MY WRISTS!
YOU DID THIS JUST 'CUZ OF SOME BREAKUP?
IF YOU WERE SO BUSTED UP YOU SHOULD HAVE COME TO US.

THE STRING WAS RED
BUT I WOULD HAVE WOKEN UP FROM THE PAIN
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN ITCHY SINCE THIS MORNING...
WHEN DID IT FIRST APPEAR?
MEANING WHOEVER DID IT DID IT LAST NIGHT
WHAT GIVES? IT WON'T CUT
ガリガリ
IS IT STEEL?
IT MIGHT HURT BUT I HAVE TO TAKE IT OUT
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING! SHOW IT TO ME!
URM... NOTHING
ISHII! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA! SOMEONE DID THIS TO ME WHEN I WAS SLEEPING!
ISHII... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR WRIST?
.....
DAMMIT! WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT
HEY! ISHII!
THAT SOUNDS VERY... WELL, SEE WHAT THE NURSE HAS TO SAY.
I TRIED TO TAKE THEM OUT BUT THE THREAD WON'T CUT!
医務室
SCREW YOU!
DON'T KILL YOURSELF ON MY WATCH
THE TEACHER TOLD ME TO GO WITH YOU SO HERE I AM
WHAT DO YOU WANT TAKE!?
SHE WANTS ME UNDER SUPERVISION?

*INFIRMARY

LET'S HAVE A LOOK
MY STOMACH'S ITCHY TOO
I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE


*DERMATOLOGIST
皮膚科
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT...
WELL... WELL...
BUT WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING? AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE?
SOMEONE'S STITCHED YOU UP WITH BRIGHT READ THREAD
THAT I CAN'T SAY...
I NEED TO RUN MORE TESTS BEFORE I CAN SAY FOR SURE
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OINTMENT BUT I WANT TO SEE YOU AGAIN
IF IT'S NOT MAN MADE THEN I HAVE TO ASSUME YOUR SKIN IS DEVELOPING CORNS
ALTHOUGH I'VE NEVER SEEN LESIONS LIKE THIS BEFORE
THE FACT THAT EVEN NIPPERS WON'T CUT THEM ONLY ADDS TO THE MYSTERY

I JUST HOPE IT'S NOTHING SERIOUS
I WONDER WHAT IT COULD BE?
MAYBE YOUR MOTHER DID IT
I'VE GOT IT!
THAT'S CRAZY! WHY ON EARTH WOULD I STITCH UP MY SON WHILE HE'S SLEEPING!
I KNOW A THOUSAND-STITCH BELT WHEN I SEE ONE!
IT'S A WHAT NOW?
THE NEEDLEWORK IS IDENTICAL!
IT'S A THOUSAND-STITCH BELT!
WHAT IS IT GRANDPA?

YOU SEE TOMOU...
GRANDPA, WHAT'S A THOUSAND-STITCH BELT?
LONG AGO WHEN MEN WENT TO BATTLE
THEY CARRIED WITH THEM A CLOTH ADORNED WITH THE CROSS-STITCHING OF A THOUSAND WOMEN
THE THOUSAND STITCHES WERE MEANT TO PROTECT THE SOLDIER'S LIFE
I CARRIED ONE MYSELF WHEN I WAS IN THE WAR
IT'S NOT THE LEAST BIT ODD THAT YOU SHOULD GET A THOUSAND-STITCH BELT ON YOUR GUT.
I FIND IT VERY ODD!
GRANDPA, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TOMOU'S STOMACH HERE
HEH! WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU WEAR A THOUSAND-STITCH BELT?
THOSE STITCHES MAY BE HER HANDIWORK...
YOUR GRANDMOTHER BLESS HER SOUL USED TO STITCH THEM LIKE MAD

WHY WOULD SHE DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO HER FAVORITE NEPHEW?
THAT'S CRAZY TALK!
TOMOU! A TERRIBLE DISASTER IS GOING TO BEFALL YOU!
BECAUSE HE'S HER FAVORITE!
NO DOUBT!
A TERRIBLE DISASTER?
WHAT KIND OF DISASTER?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? ASK YOUR GRANDMA!
YOUR GRANDMOTHER BROUGHT HER NEEDLE AND THREAD FROM THE OTHER SIDE TO PROTECT YOU. THOSE STITCHES WARD OFF DISASTER!
ENOUGH ALREADY GRANDPA!

TOMOU DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR GRANDFATHER
GRANDMA WOULD NEVER DO THAT. EVEN IF SHE WAS STILL...
EVEN SO THERE WAS SOMETHING CONVINCING ABOUT HIS STORY
BUT SOMETIMES HE JUMPS TO WILD CONCLUSIONS
HE'S A GOOD PERSON
LET'S SEE THEM GET ME AGAIN TONIGHT
ALRIGHT

THEY'RE A LONG WAYS OFF FROM A THOUSAND...
AND WHAT GOOD WOULD THE BELT BE WITHOUT ALL THOUSAND STITCHES?
IF GRANDPA IS TO BE BELIEVED THEN THEY'RE COMING BACK
"KNOCK IT OFF YOU OLD COOT!"
WHEN GRANDMA SHOWS UP I'M GONNA' LET HER HAVE IT
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF DISASTER'S WAITING FOR ME BUT IT CAN'T BE WORSE THEN THESE STITCHES
WHERE ARE THEY GONNA' COME FROM?
ANY TIME NOW

HM?
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チッ
チッチッ
GRA... GRANDMA!
OH TOMOU YOU'RE AWAKE!
……

NOW BE A GOOD BOY AND TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES EVERYONE WILL GIVE YOU ONE STITCH
I BROUGHT MY SEWING CIRCLE FROM THE OTHER SIDE.
KNOCK IT OFF YOU OLD COOT!
GRANDMA
AUGH!
NOW TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES!
HOHOHO! WHAT A STRAPPING YOUND LAD!
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY THEY'RE NO STRANGERS TO NEEDLEWORK

YOU'LL JUST FEEL A TINY PRICK..
HO HO HO!
HOHOHO! THIS YOUNG BUCK CAN KICK!
LET ME GO!
STILL GOT SOME GROWING TO DO I SEE!
OW OW OW OW!
PLEASE STOP!
STOP!
WAS I DREAMING?
HAH.. HAH...
UWAHH!

NO!
IT FELT TOO REAL!
THANK GOD! IT WAS JUST A DREAM
THIS IS SO STUPID. I M GOING TO SLEEP
OF COURSE IT WAS A DREAM... WHAT AM I THINKING?
IF ONLY THESE STITCHES WERE A DREAM TOO

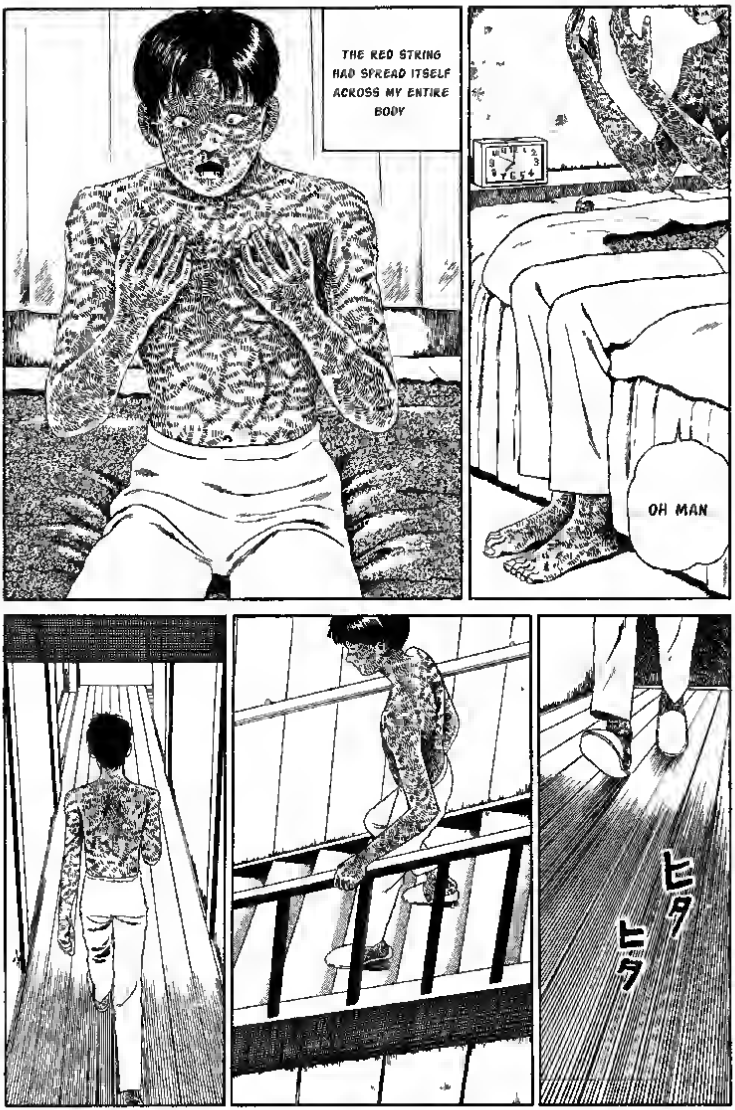
HEY ISHII YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR TODAY?
WHAT?
MY FRIEND TAKEI CAME UP TO ME BEFORE LONG
THE NEXT DAY MY CLASSMATES WERE ALL LOOKING AT ME STRANGELY
DAMNIT THEY STILL THINK I TRIED TO KILL MYSELF
男子トイレ
*BOYS BATHROOM
GO SEE FOR YOURSELF

NO SLEEPING IN MY CLASS! HEAD UP STRAIGHT!
THIS CONTINUED THROUGH 14TH AND 15TH CENTURY EUROPE UNTIL FINALLY—
HURM
SO YOU SEE CLASS
URK!
GROSS!
WHAT?

ISHII!
I HOPE YOU'RE IN HELL
GRAND-MA
PRANK? WHAT PRANK?
STOP THIS RIDICULOUS PRANK! DO YOU KNOW WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT ME!?
THIS LITTLE CHARADE OF YOURS IS DIRECTED AT ME AM I RIGHT?
MOMOKO
YOU USED TO TELL PEOPLE THAT WE WERE "TIED TOGETHER BY THE RED STRING OF FATE."
THIS WHOLE "RED STRING OF FATE" BUSINESS!
SO NOW YOU'VE COVERED YOURSELF WITH RED STRING TO GET BACK AT ME FOR BREAKING UP WITH YOU!
WHAT CHARADE?

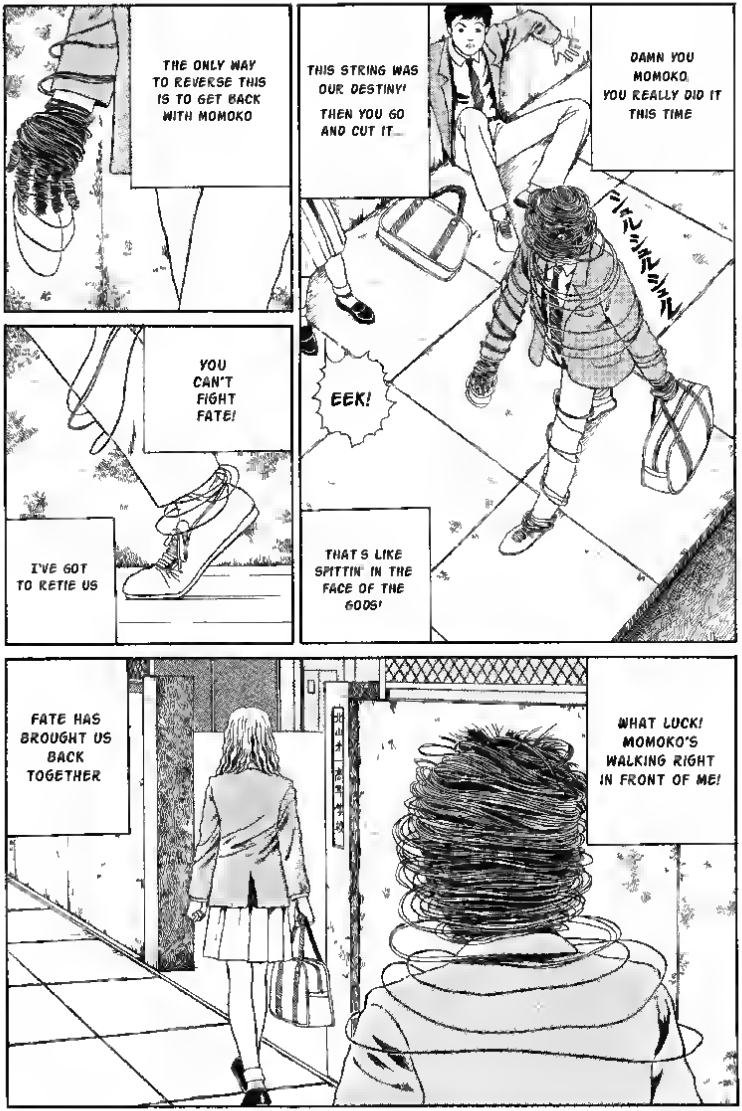
I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU TO STOP IT GOODBYE
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! LISTEN TO ME!
"YOU CUT THE THREAD AND NOW IT'S WOUND UP INSIDE MY BODY."
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY, RIGHT?
SHE— SHE WAS SEEING SOMEONE BEHIND MY BACK
OYAMA! DID YOU MISS ME?
THEN IT'S LOGICAL TO SAY THAT THE STRING WOULD WIND ITSELF UP IN MY BODY
I USED TO SAY THAT OUR FUTURES WERE TIED TOGETHER BY THE RED STRING OF FATE IF MOMOKO CUT IT...
TOPPI
IT'S STUPID YET SOMEHOW CONVINCING...

IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT BOTH EXPLANATIONS ARE PRETTY OUT THERE...
I EVEN HAD THAT TERRIBLE DREAM ABOUT IT
SO IF THAT'S THE CASE WHAT ABOUT GRANDPA'S THOUSAND-STITCH BELT?
LIKE SUPER-ACNE OR SOMETHING
IT'D BE BETTER TO THINK OF IT AS SOME KIND OF SKIN CONDITION
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
カチャ
I AWOKE TO A SHOCK...


THE RED STRING HAD SPREAD ITSELF ACROSS MY ENTIRE BODY
OH MAN
ヒタ
ヒタ

OH TOMOU! GOOD MOR-
MORNING
LOOKS LIKE HIS THEORY WAS OFF.
SO ABOUT GRANDPA'S THOUSAND-STITCH BELT...
TOMOU! YOUR SKIN!
I COUNTED BUT IT'S NOT QUITE A THOUSAND
SEE YOU TONIGHT.
SURE THING. I'LL GO ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL.
YOU NEED TO SEE THE DOCTOR!
I HATE TO DISAPPOINT YOU GRANDPA
URM.. UH HUH..

IF I'M NOT CAREFUL MY OTHER EYE AND MOUTH WILL GET COVERED TOO!
AH! MY LEFT EYE'S COVERED UP!
シュルシュルシュルシュル
THE RED STRINGS COVERING MY BODY WERE INCREASING AT AN ALARMING RATE.
WHAT'S THAT SOUND? IT SOUNDS LIKE RAVELING THREAD
IT'S HIGHLY LIKELY THAT THIS IS THE RED STRING OF FATE.
IT LOST ITS PURPOSE AFTER BEING CUT AND IS WINDING BACK UP INSIDE OF ME
MOMOKO WAS RIGHT
I BET IT COULD REACH HALFWAY AROUND THE WORLD
AND IF ALL THAT THREAD WINDS UP INSIDE ME
BUT WHO KNOWS HOW LONG THE RED THREAD OF FATE REALLY IS?

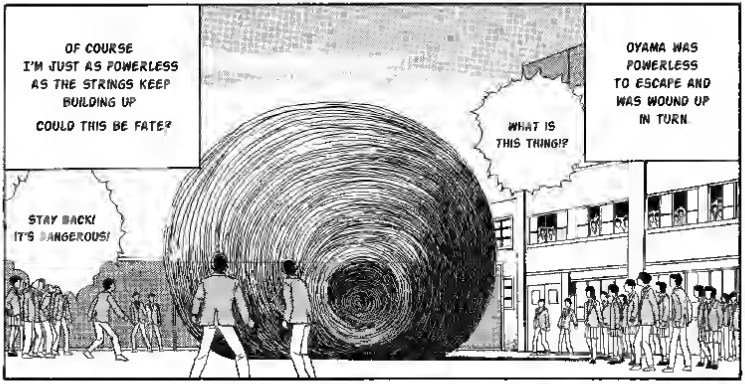

THE ONLY WAY TO REVERSE THIS IS TO GET BACK WITH MOMOKO
THIS STRING WAS OUR DESTINY!
THEN YOU GO AND CUT IT—
DAMN YOU MOMOKO. YOU REALLY DID IT THIS TIME
ウネルンルンルンルン
EEK!
YOU CAN'T FIGHT FATE!
I'VE GOT TO RETIE US
THAT'S LIKE SPITTIN' IN THE FACE OF THE GODS!
FATE HAS BROUGHT US BACK TOGETHER
WHAT LUCK! MOMOKO'S WALKING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME!

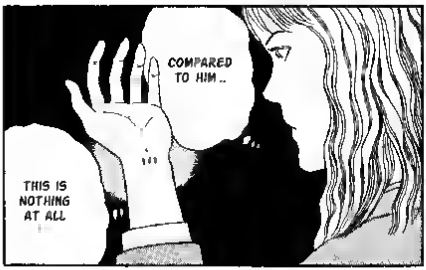
MOH... MOMOKO!
MOH... MOH... MMPH
シュル シュル シュル
IS THAT YOU ISHII? QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD!
シュル シュル シュル
OH NO!
MM MMM!
MY MOUTH'S BEEN SEWED SHUT!
STOP STALKING ME !!!
シュル シュル シュル
WHAT ARE YOU MUMBLING!?

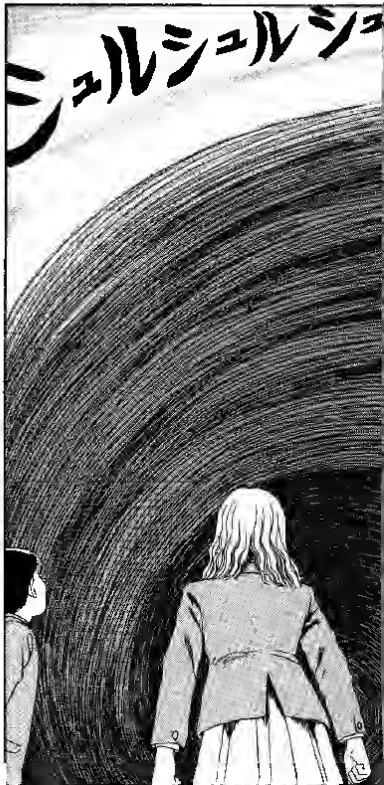
MM MM M!
ミョルミョルミョル
NO! NOT NOW! MY LEGS ARE TANGLED AND I CAN'T WALK!
WHAT A HEARTLESS GIRL
MMFF!
I'M GONNA' LASSO YOU SO HARD!
EEK!
THAT'S IT! OPERATION INCHWORM!
ズッズッズッズ
MM!
OYAMA! COME QUICK!
MOMOKO! WHAT'S WRONG?
SOMEONE HELP ME !!!
STAY AWAY!

シュルシュル
IT'S A SPAGHETTI MONSTER!
ルシュルシュ
LOOK! IT'S A MONSTER!
I WON'T LET YOU LAY A FINGER ON HER!
IT'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME!
AH!
LISTEN UP MUMMY MAN!
LEAVE IT TO ME!

ゴロゴロゴロ
AH!
I'LL SHAKE HIM LOOSE!
GIVE ME A BREAK! I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH A GUY!
WHAT THE HELL? I CAN'T GET IT OFF!
DAMNIT! I HIT HIM INSTEAD OF MOMOKO!
シュルシュル
MOMOKO! HELP ME!
UWAH!
ドサッ
AHH! OYAMA, HOW TRAGIC!


OF COURSE I'M JUST AS POWERLESS AS THE STRINGS KEEP BUILDING UP
COULD THIS BE FATE?
OYAMA WAS POWERLESS TO ESCAPE AND WAS WOUND UP IN TURN.
WHAT IS THIS THING!?
STAY BACK! IT'S DANGEROUS!





RED STRING - END

ご先祖様
MY DEAR ANCESTORS

THIS IS YOUR HOUSE RISA DO YOU RECOGNIZE IT?
.....
RISA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE SO LATE?
OH MY. DID MAKITA BRING YOU HOME?
IT'S SORT OF A STRANGE STORY
STRANGE NOW?
WELL YOU SEE ... I SAW RISA ON MY WAY HOME FROM SCHOOL AND I SAID HELLO
BUT SHE WOULDN'T RESPOND AND HAS BEEN ACTING ODD

IT'S ME... YOUR MOTHER!
RISA... ANSWER ME
WHAT DO YOU MEAN!?
SHE DOESN'T SEEM TO REMEMBER ME OR WHERE HER HOME IS...
RISA!
IN ANY CASE LET'S TAKE TREATMENT ONE STEP AT A TIME
CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN?
IT'S PROBABLY AN EMOTIONAL PROBLEM CAUSED BY AN INTENSE MENTAL SHOCK...
I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST...
THERE'S NO SIGNS OF BRAIN ABNORMALITY...
市総合病院

*GENERAL HOSPITAL

ピンポーン
HOW IS SHE?
SHE STILL CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING
SHE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCED SOMETHING AWFUL
WHY HELLO THERE MAKITA! DID YOU COME TO CHEER UP RISA?
PLEASE COME IN
CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING?
LIKE SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED AT SCHOOL?
NO
NOT AT ALL

WE GET TO START OVER FROM THE BEGINNING!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT THINK OF IT THIS WAY
GOOD EVENING I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER
YOUR NAME WAS MAKITA?
I'M GETTING EXCITED THINKING ABOUT ALL THE FUN WE'RE GONNA' HAVE
WE CAN EXPERIENCE EVERY-THING ALL OVER AGAIN LIKE IT WAS THE FIRST TIME
START OVER?
THAT'S A SECRET WE GOTTA' MAKE THE MOST OF THIS BLANK SLATE
THAT'S RIGHT
YOU MEAN YOU AND ME?
HMMM
LIKE WHAT?

*CLOMP— CLOMP— CLOMP CLOMP

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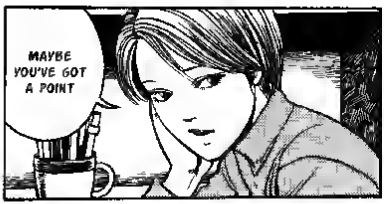
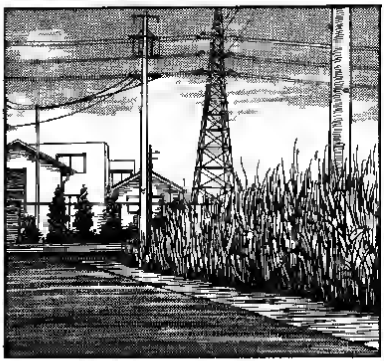
AHHH!!
EEEK!!
RISA!
WHY ARE YOU SCREAMING!
RISA
YOU WERE HAVING A BAD DREAM
WHERE DID IT GO?
AH
A GIANT WHAT?
THERE WAS A GIANT CATER-PILLAR!

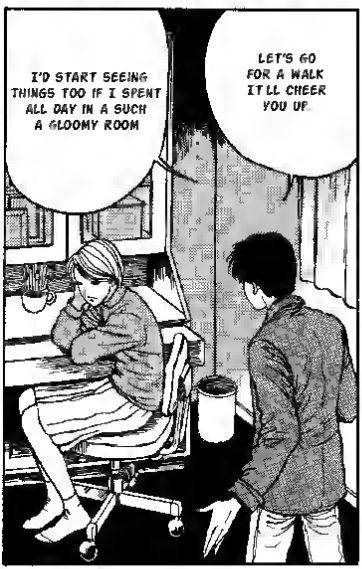
I'M STARTING TO SEE THINGS
MAKITA
I THINK I'M GONNA' GO CRAZY IF I DON'T DO SOMETHING

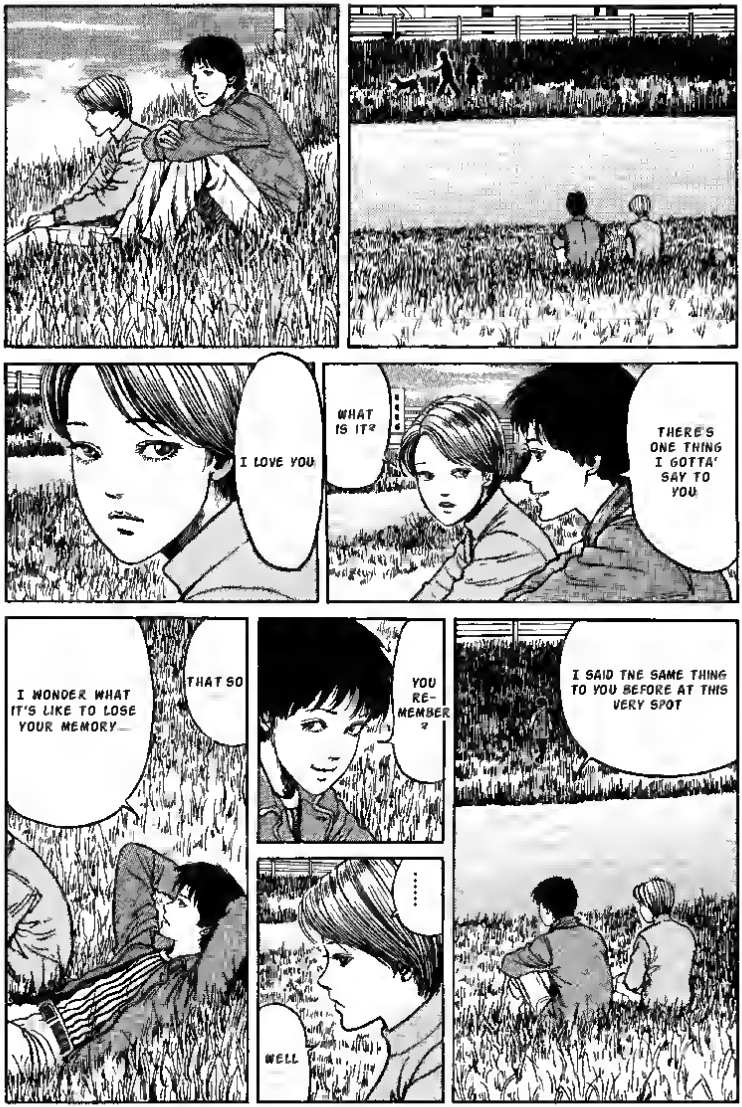
I'M WORRIED IT'LL COME BACK FOR ME
I DUNNO
BUT THE FEAR WAS REAL

WHY WOULD YOU HALLUCINATE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
HMM
A GIANT CATERPILLAR


MAYBE YOU'VE GOT A POINT




I'D START SEEING THINGS TOO IF I SPENT ALL DAY IN A SUCH A GLOOMY ROOM
LET'S GO FOR A WALK IT'LL CHEER YOU UP


I LOVE YOU
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S ONE THING I GOTTA' SAY TO YOU
I WONDER WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE YOUR MEMORY...
THAT SO
YOU RE-MEMBER?
.....
WELL
I SAID THE SAME THING TO YOU BEFORE AT THIS VERY SPOT

BUT DON'T YOU WORRY RISA YOU JUST NEED TO MAKE NEW MEMORIES.
IT'S SCARY JUST THINKING ABOUT IT
YOU'D LOSE ALL YOUR BEST MEMORIES.
HMM IF I FORGOT WHO I WAS
THAT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME
MY DAD'S THERE BUT HE'S SLEEPING SO IT'LL BE OKAY!
THAT REMINDS ME YOU WANNA' COME TO MY PLACE?
COME ON! LET'S GO!

WHAT'S WRONG? COME ON IN
.....
ASLEEP AS USUAL
RISA CAME TO HANG OUT.
YOU UP DAD? I'M HOME.
AND YOUR MOTHER?
THEY TELL ME MOM DIED SHORTLY AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO ME.
IS YOUR FATHER'S SICKNESS SERIOUS?
HE USED TO BE A WRITER BUT THESE DAYS HE CAN'T PUT PEN TO PAPER.
HE USED TO WRITE HISTORIC NOVELS AND STUFF

YOU USED TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME
I GUESS THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME FOR YOU COMING HERE HUH?
NO — IT'S NOTHING
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK ON EDGE
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THIS WILL BE THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE MET HIM
MY DAD MUST HAVE WOKEN UP.
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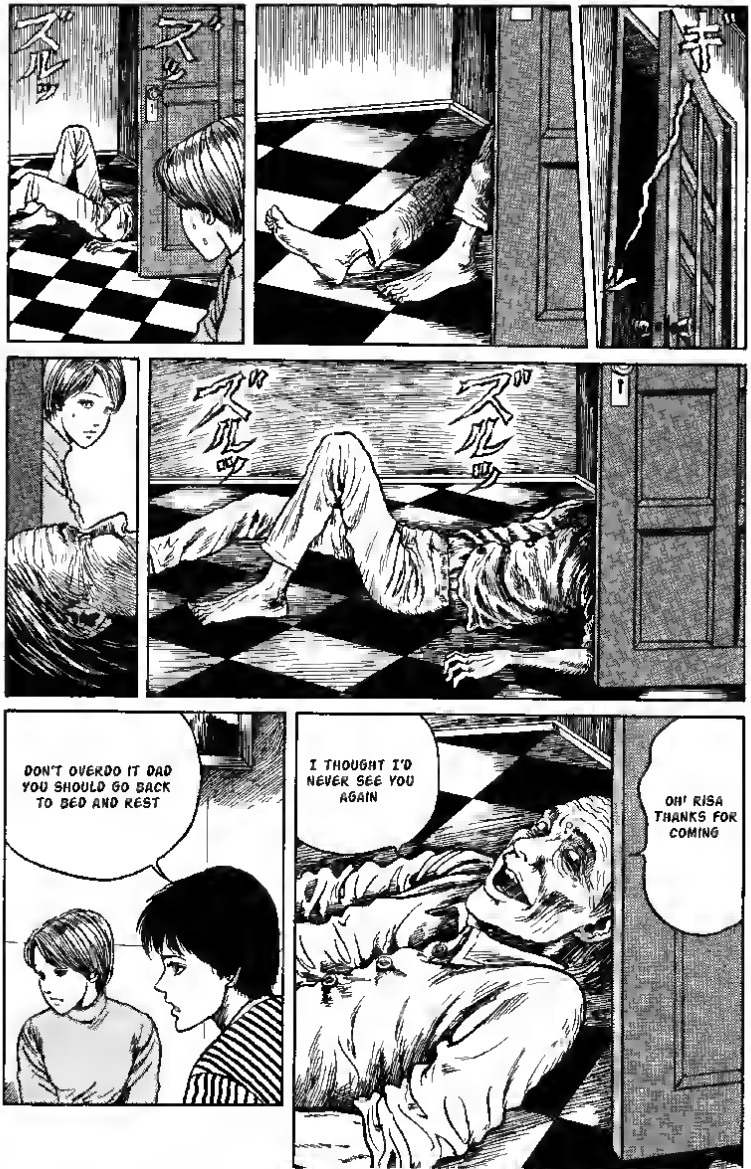
ズル
WHAT'S THAT NOUSE?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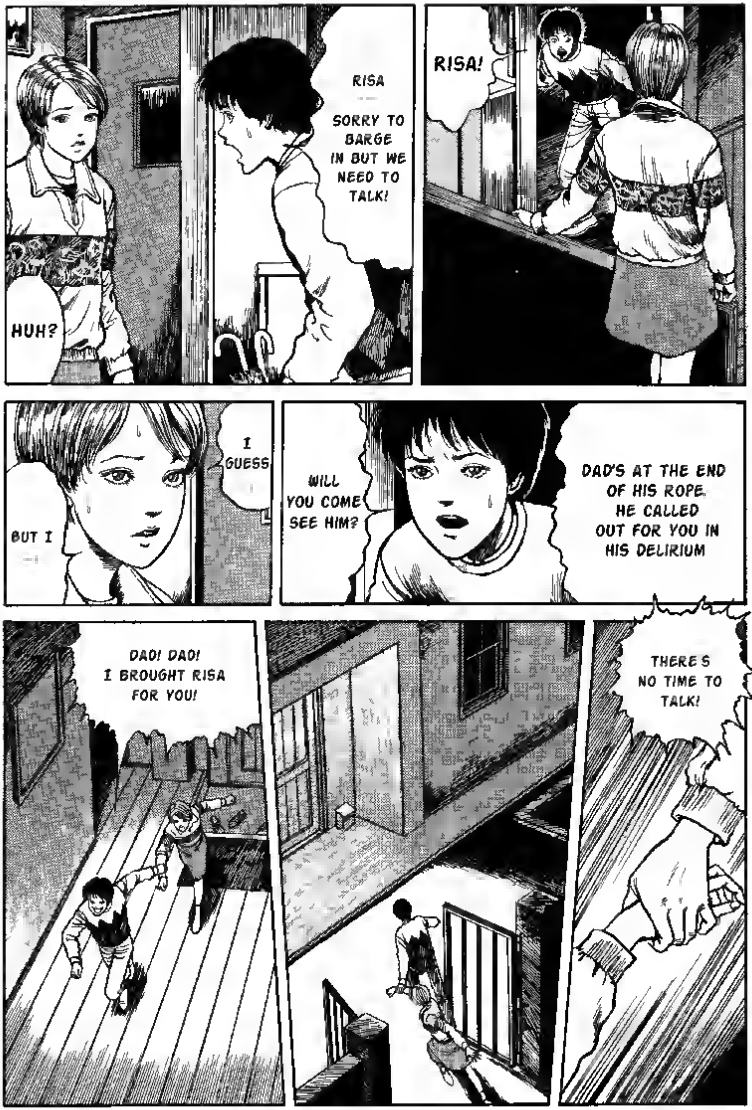
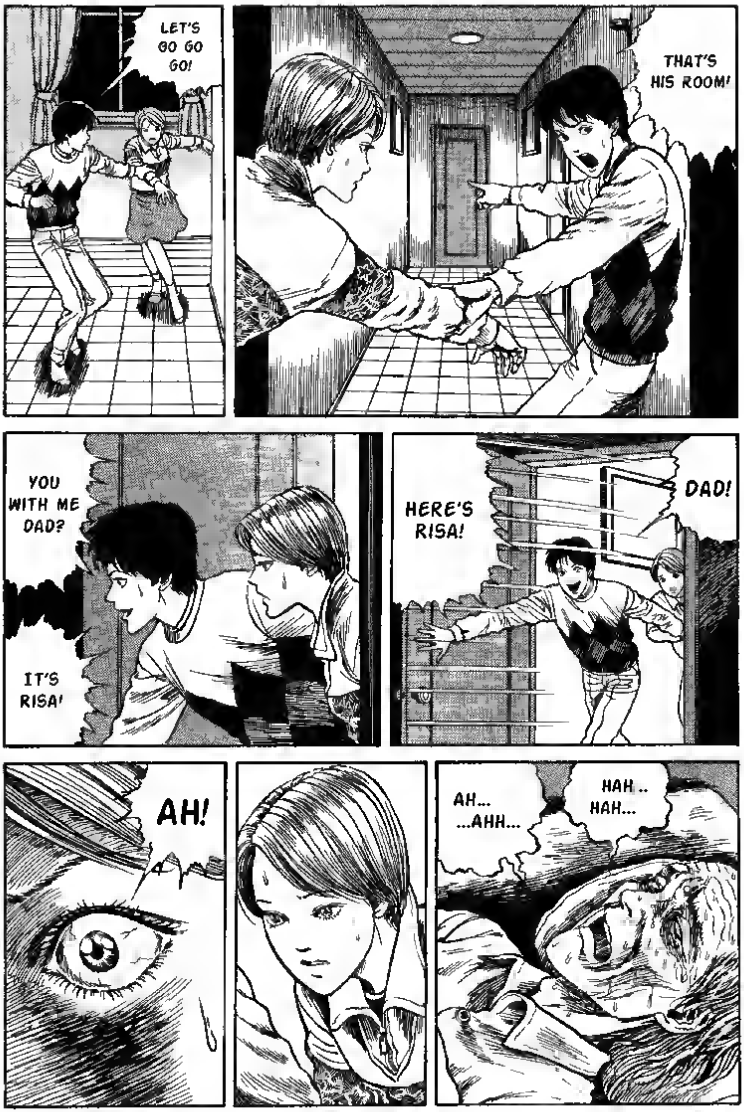
ズル
DON'T OVERDO IT DAD YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO BED AND REST
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN
OH! RISA THANKS FOR COMING

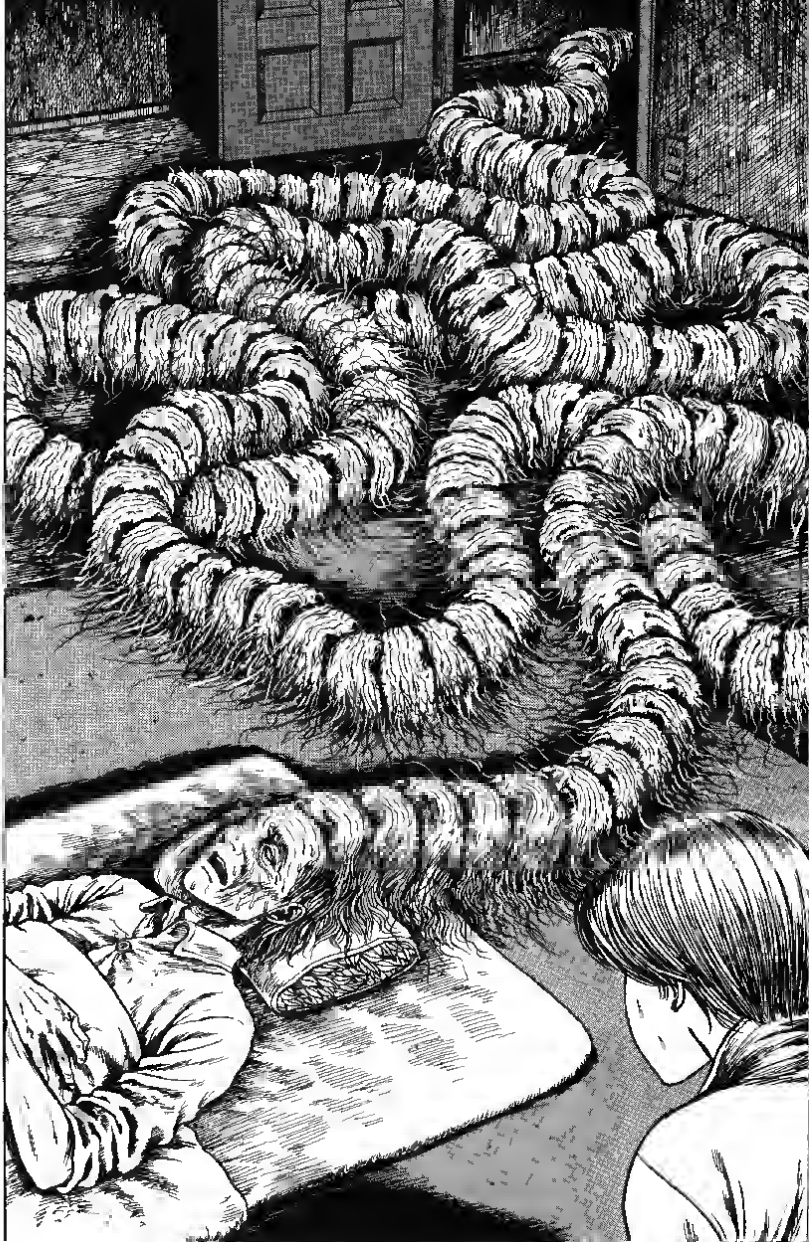
I SEE...
'TIS IS A PITY. BUT IT'S NOTHING THAT WON'T HEAL OVER TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? RISA'S LOST HER MEMORY!
WHAT, AND BE RUDE TO THE LITTLE LADY THAT'S GOING TO MARRY MY SON?
RISA, TAKE CARE OF SHUICHI FOR ME AFTER I'M GONE
UNLIKE ME, WHO WORSENS WITH TIME. I DON'T HAVE MUCH LONGER
...
HEHEHE.
I'D RATHER YOU SAID THESE THINGS THAN ME
I SEE
...
MY APOLOGIES
YOU'RE ONLY MAKING IT WORSE!
DON'T BE SO MORBID DAD! BESIDES, RISA DOESN'T REMEMBER THAT SHE PROMISED TO MARRY ME.

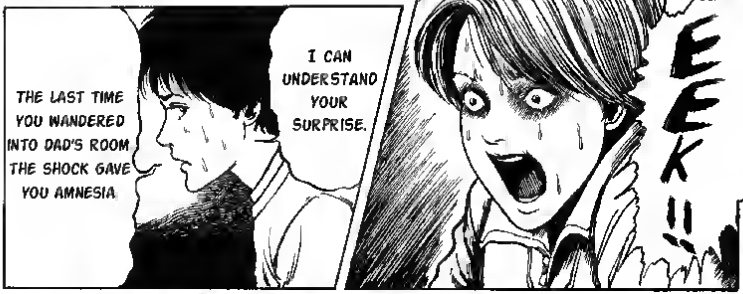
SEE YOU LATER RISA. ENJOY YOUR STAY
I NEED TO GET BACK IN BED ANYWAY
DON'T WORRY. I CAN TAKE THE HINT
ズル
ズルッ
ERM...
AND PLEASE... PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY SON
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
HEHEHE FAREWELL
DON'T MIND ME

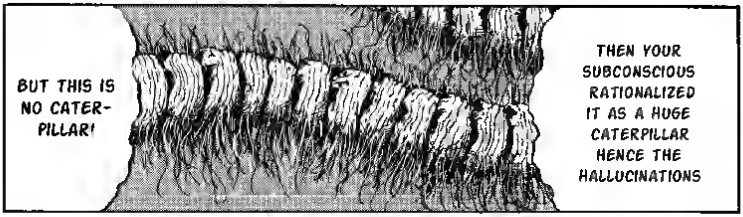
SOMETHING SO HORRIFIC AS TO LOSE MY MEMORY ...
WHAT SORT OF HORROR COULD I HAVE WITNESSED?
THIS SENSE OF DREAD ...
THIS UN-SPEAKABLE DREAD ...
THAT HOUSE MIGHT HOLD THE REASON BEHIND MY AMNESIA
IT'S GOTTEN WORSE SINCE I WENT TO SHUICHI'S HOUSE
SHUICHI LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN A HURRY
COME! HURRY DOWNSTAIRS
RISA! SHUICHI'S HERE TO SEE YOU!

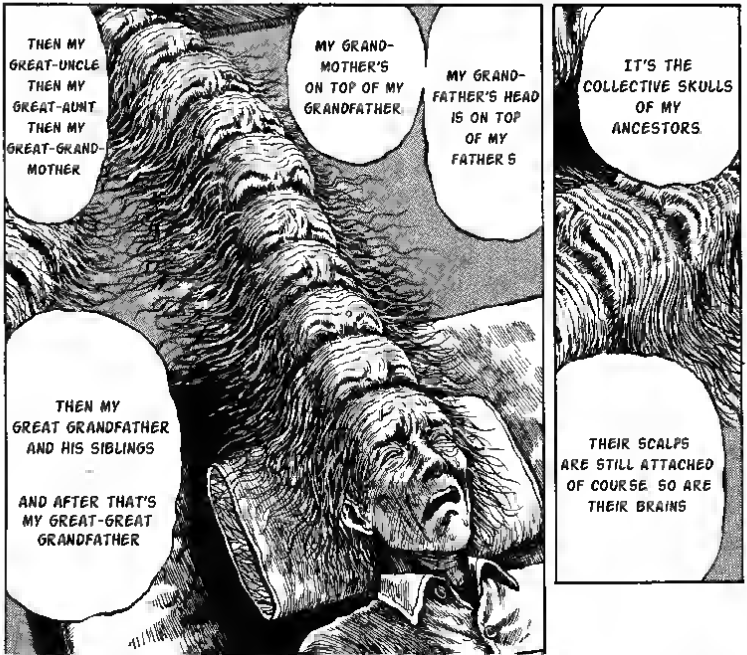

RISA
SORRY TO BARGE IN BUT WE NEED TO TALK!
HUH?
RISA!
I GUESS
BUT I
WILL YOU COME SEE HIM?
DAD'S AT THE END OF HIS ROPE. HE CALLED OUT FOR YOU IN HIS DELIRIUM
DAD! DAD! I BROUGHT RISA FOR YOU!
THERE'S NO TIME TO TALK!


LET'S GO GO GO!
THAT'S HIS ROOM!
YOU WITH ME DAD?
IT'S RISA!
HERE'S RISA!
DAD!
AH!
AH... ...AHH...
HAH.. HAH...




I CAN UNDERSTAND YOUR SURPRISE.
THE LAST TIME YOU WANDERED INTO DAD'S ROOM THE SHOCK GAVE YOU AMNESIA
EEK!!

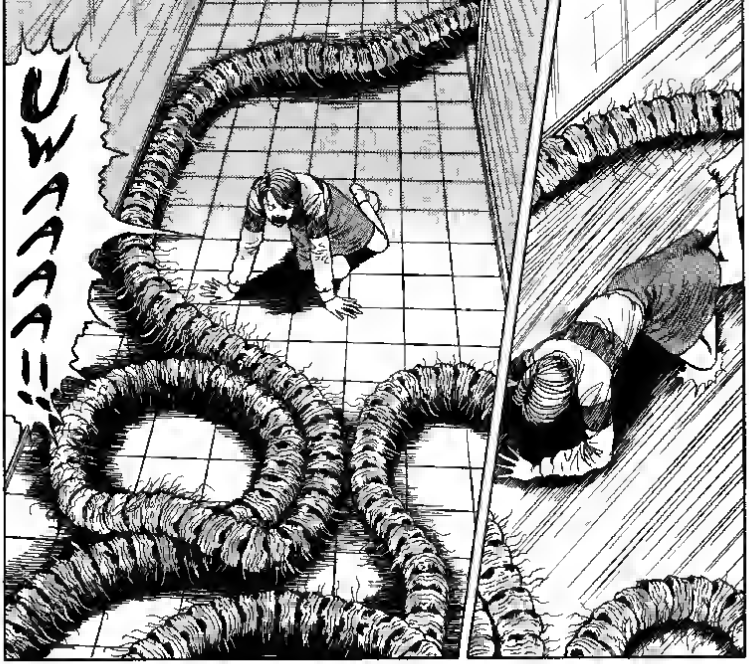

BUT THIS IS NO CATER-PILLAR!
THEN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS RATIONALIZED IT AS A HUGE CATERPILLAR HENCE THE HALLUCINATIONS


THEN MY GREAT-UNCLE THEN MY GREAT-AUNT THEN MY GREAT-GRAND-MOTHER
MY GRAND-MOTHER'S ON TOP OF MY GRANDFATHER
MY GRAND-FATHER'S HEAD IS ON TOP OF MY FATHER'S
IT'S THE COLLECTIVE SKULLS OF MY ANCESTORS
THEN MY GREAT GRANDFATHER AND HIS SIBLINGS
AND AFTER THAT'S MY GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER
THEIR SCALPS ARE STILL ATTACHED OF COURSE SO ARE THEIR BRAINS

I DON'T KNOW WHAT CENTURY THE HEAD AT THE START OF THE CHAIN WAS A PART OF
AND SO THE MINDS OF MY ANCESTORS STRETCH BACK BEYOND THE AGES
AND WHEN MY FATHER JOINED MINDS WITH MY ANCESTORS HE GAINED ACCESS TO THEIR MEMORIES
WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THEY ARE CONNECTED TO THEIR OFFSPRING BY A BOND OF BLOOD
THEIR BRAINS ARE STILL LIVING
STILL THINKING
WE NEED A FROGENY
HURRY AND DO WHAT YOU MUST DO
WE'RE ALMOST OUT OF TIME
I CAN'T HOLD ON ANYMORE
NAH... ...HAH... SHUICHI
I'LL BE A PART OF THIS LINEUP SOMEDAY TOO
I KNOW DAD
I KNOW

I REMEMBER EVERYTHING
I REMEMBER
AND DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOU ACCEPTED?
YOU SAID YOU'D MARRY ME!
SO YOU REMEMBER ME PROPOSING TO YOU!?
RISA...
YOU GOT YOUR MEMORIES BACK!
I JUST NEED YOU TO MAKE A BABY WITH ME!
RISA...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE-
.....

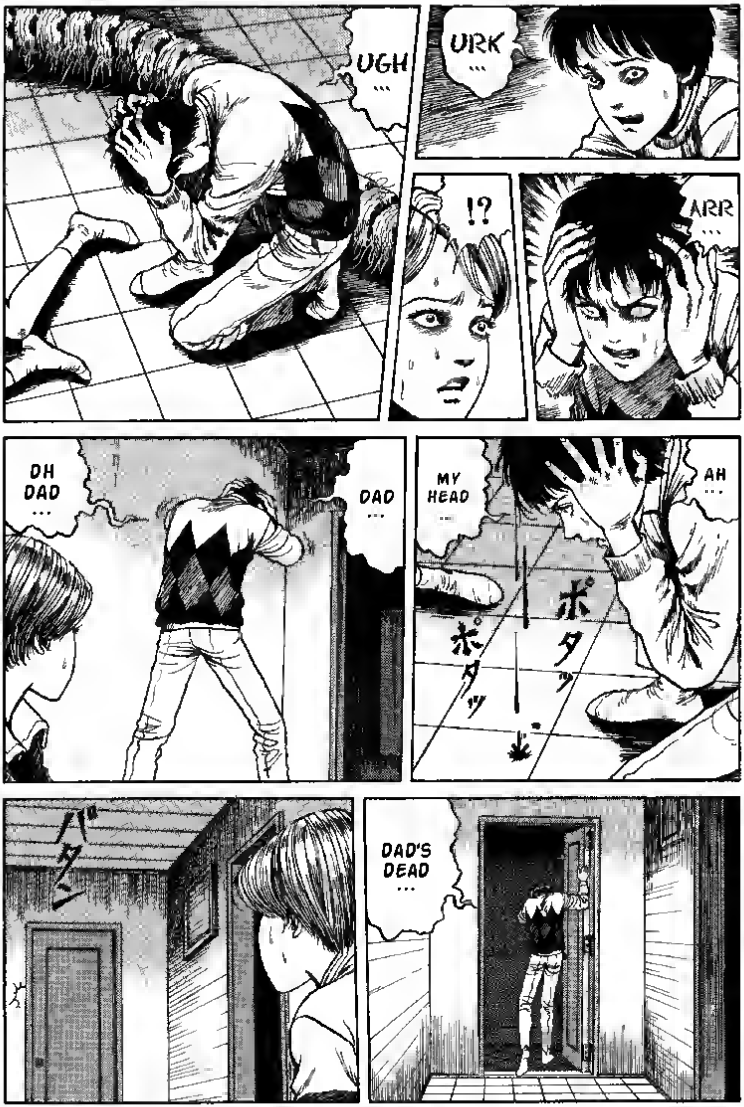
IF I DON'T PROVIDE AN HEIR THE BLOODLINE WILL END WITH ME
THE KNOWLEDGE KEPT OVER THE LONG CENTURIES WILL BE LOST
I'M MY FAMILY'S LAST HOPE.
NEVER! I'M OUT OF HERE!
RISA-
I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN
I COULD NEVER MARRY YOU
NO...
AH!
カッ
THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN!
I'VE LOCKED ALL THE EXITS!
RISA! WAIT!


UWAAAA!!

YOU'RE MINE NOW.
RISA
I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME

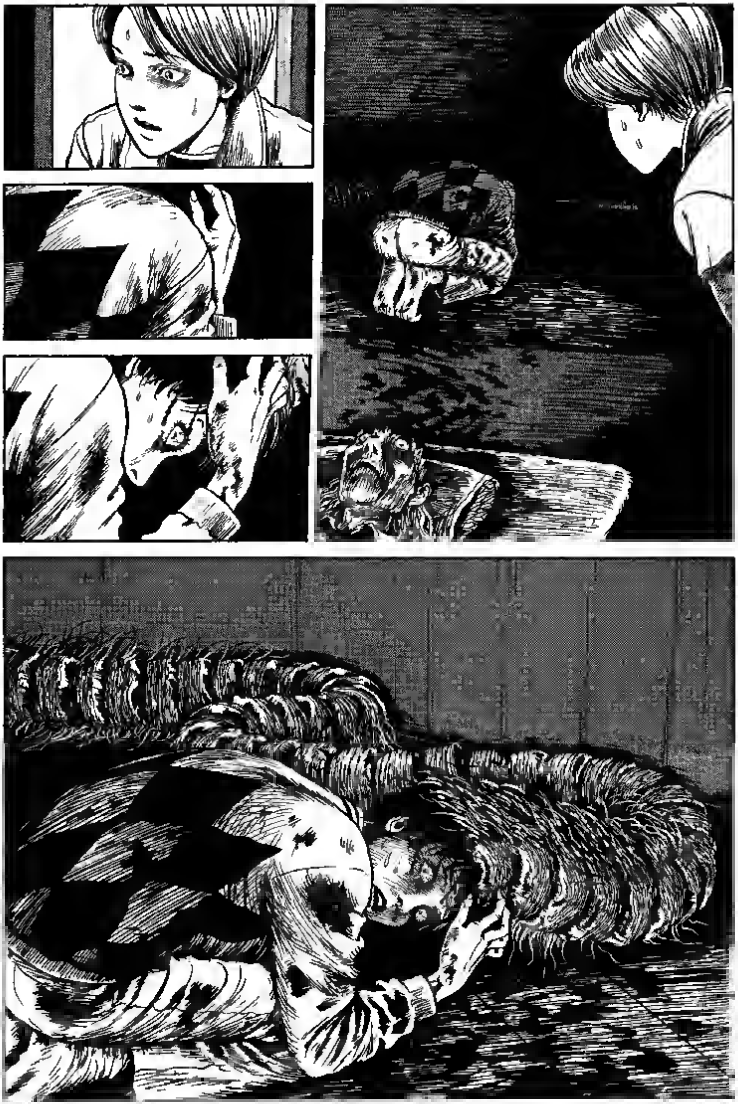
NEVER!
STAY AWAY!

YOU CAN'T OUTSMART THEM.
THEY'RE AS OLD AS HISTORY.


UGH
...
URK
...
!?
ARR
...
OH DAD
...
DAD
...
MY HEAD
...
AH
...
ポタッ
ポタッ
バタン
DAD'S DEAD
...

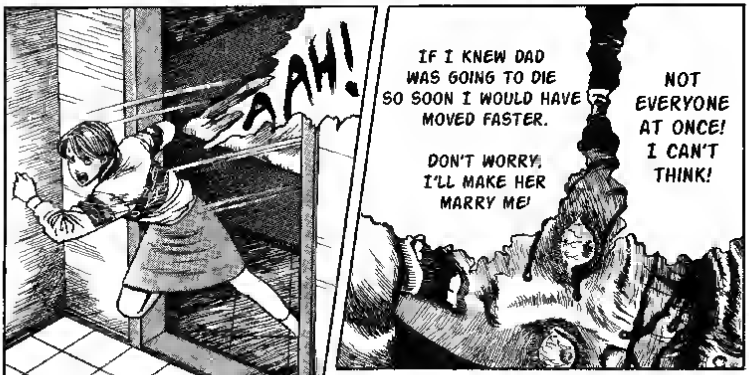
EEK!
ズルッ
ズルッ
……
……
ズルズルッ
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HIS SCALP'S GONE



EEEEEK!!
HAH...
...HAH...
HAH

LISTEN TO YOUR GRANDMOTHER! SHE'S YOUR LAST CHANCE AT A WIFE!
FULFILL THINE DUTY!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, SHU HONEY!? GRAB THAT HUSSY!


AAH!
IF I KNEW DAD WAS GOING TO DIE SO SOON I WOULD HAVE MOVED FASTER.
DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE HER MARRY ME!
NOT EVERYONE AT ONCE! I CAN'T THINK!

WAIT RISA! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
AHH!
シャカシャカシャカ
RISAAAA
RISAAAA

AHHHHHH
RHAAAA
AUGHHHH
IT'S EASIER THAT WAY.
NOW, FOR THE WEDDING CEREMONY
LOOKS LIKE RISA LOST HER HEAD AGAIN.
DONE AND DONE.
OUR FAMILY IS SAFE FOR ANOTHER GENERATION
WUH...
WUH...

Hanging Balloons by Junji Ito

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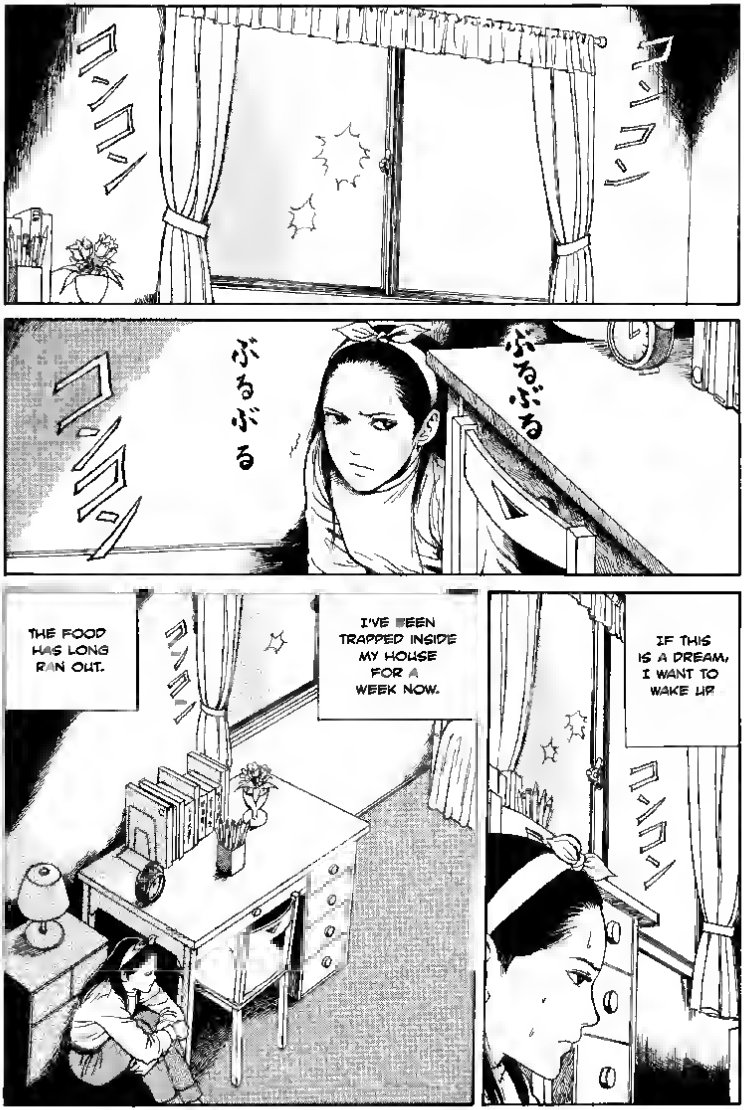
SCRIPT, TRANSLATION: DAVE KRACKER (DAVIDKRACKER@SMCM.EDU) (HTTP://TOKYOSCUM.BLOGSPOT.COM)

Fig. 1
Fig. 2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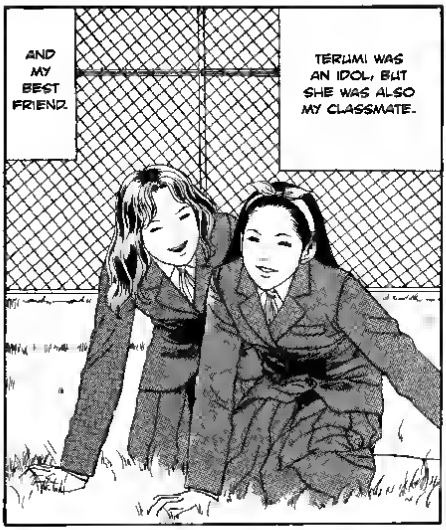
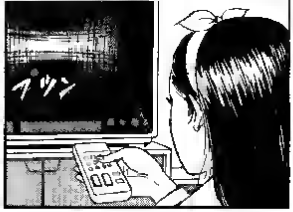
コンコン
ぶるぶる
ぶるぶる
コンコン
THE FOOD HAS LONG RAN OUT.
I'VE BEEN TRAPPED INSIDE MY HOUSE FOR A WEEK NOW.
IF THIS IS A DREAM, I WANT TO WAKE UP
コンコン

KAZUKO... OPEN THE WINDOW, ALREADY!
コンコン
BUT I CAN'T EVEN SET ONE FOOT OUTSIDE
THE MOMENT I DO, THEY'LL GET ME.
KAZUKO, ARE YOU LISTENING?
ドンドン
IF I LEAVE, I'M AS GOOD AS DEAD.
NO WAY. I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT.
IF YOU DON'T COME OUT TO EAT, YOU'LL DIE!
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
MY OWN VOICE IS CALLING ME FROM OUTSIDE THE SECOND STORY WINDOW.
I'M NOT HALLUCINATING. THAT THING IS USING MY VOICE.
HOW REPULSIVE, THAT'S MY VOICE, PITCH FOR PITCH.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT REALLY IS. ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT WANTS ME DEAD. IT'S ALWAYS THERE, WAITING, RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW.
IT MAY SOUND LIKE ME, BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT ME.
AHH... HOW COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS HAPPEN?
IT ALL STARTED ABOUT A MONTH AGO...
WHEN TERUMI FUJINO...
DIED A HORRIBLE DEATH.

THE NOOSE WAS MADE OF METAL AND WAS WRAPPED HAPHAZARDLY AROUND ELECTRICAL WIRES.
THEY FOUND HER HANGING OUTSIDE OF HER APARTMENT, LIKE SHE WANTED TO BROADCAST HER DEATH TO THE WORLD.
THEY SAY THE WEIGHT OF HER BODY NEARLY TORE THE HEAD OFF.
ONE CAN'T HELP BUT THINK BY LOOKING AT THE CROWD OF MOURNFUL FANS GATHERED TOGETHER AFTER HEARING THE TRAGIC NEWS, THAT SOMETHING HERE JUST ISN'T RIGHT.
TERUMI!
TERUMI!
REPORTING LIVE, OUTISDE THE APARTMENT OF TELEVISION PERSONALITY AND MODEL TERUMI FUJINO WHO PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT.
ACCORDING TO HER PARENTS, SHE WAS HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS REGARDING HER LIFE AS A CELEBRITY.
ALTHOUGH, THERE WAS NO SUICIDE NOTE--
AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THAT SHE LEANED OUT HER WINDOW AND TIED THE NOOSE AROUND THE ELECTRICAL WIRE.


AND MY BEST FRIEND.
TERUMI WAS AN IDOL, BUT SHE WAS ALSO MY CLASSMATE.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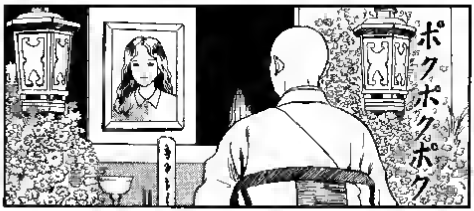
TERUMI KILLED HERSELF?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. .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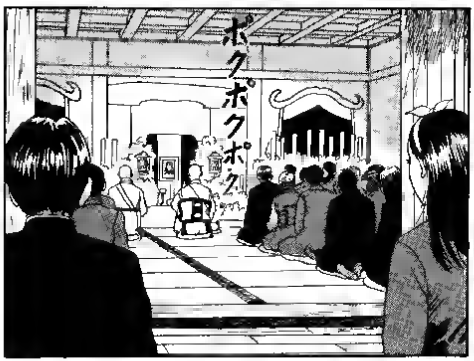
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TERUMI!!
TERUMI!!

TER-
UMI!
TERUMI!
SHE NEVER LET ON THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONG AT SCHOOL. . WHAT DO YOU THINK KAZUKO?
BUT, WHY WOULD TERUMI KILL HERSELF?
THOSE FANS WERE GOING NUTS!
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? SHE STOLE THE HEART OF EVERY BOY IN JAPAN!
HMM... I DUNNO...

HE LOOKS SO SAD. I BET HE'S TAKING THIS REAL HARD
IT'S SHIROISHI.
LOOK!

WHAT DO YOU GUYS WANT?
WE'RE FROM THE TERUMI FUJINO FAN CLUB.
YOU SHINYA SHI-ROI-SHI?
WELL.. YEAH...
WE'VE GOT A FEW THINGS WE WANNA ASK YOU.
WE'VE HEARD THAT YOU WERE TERUMI'S BOYFRIEND!
BOY FRIEND...?
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GUY.
STOP ACTING STUPID!

WE KNOW YOU WERE DATING BEFORE HER DEBUT!
AND THAT YOU WERE OPPOSED TO HER CAREER AND NEVER GAVE HER ANY SUPPORT!
WE'VE LOOKED INTO YOU!
WHAT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I'M RIGHT, AREN'T I?!
YOU WERE THE CAUSE OF ALL HER PROB-LEMS!
WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
GET OFFA ME!
YEAH! YEAH!
DO I HAVE TO SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU?! YOU MADE HER KILL HERSELF!

YOU WANT SOME OF THIS, TOO?
YOU LITTLE SKANKS!
SHIROSHI'S OUR CLASSMATE. LET HIM GO!
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO PROVE, GANGING UP ON HIM, LIKE THAT?!
THERE WERE A BUNCH AT THE FUNERAL-- I SCREAM, THEY'LL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT HIT YOU!
DON'T MAKE ME CALL THE COPS!
BETTER WATCH YOUR BACKS! ALL OF YOU!
GOD DAMN-IT!

THEY'RE JUST TAKING IT OUT ON YOU.
DON'T LISTEN TO THOSE GUYS.
...
ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH...
I— I THINK THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT. MY NAGGING DROVE HER TO THIS.
NO.
UU-UH...
UHUHH...
SHI-ROISHI...
DON'T YOU THINK IT!
BULLSHIT! TERUMI WOULDN'T KILL HER-SELF OVER SOME SMALL THING LIKE THAT!

TERUMI...
UWAH...
HI, SWEETHEART. DID YOU GIVE YOUR CONDOLENCES?
YES, MOM.
I'M HOME!
BETTER SPREAD SOME SALT...

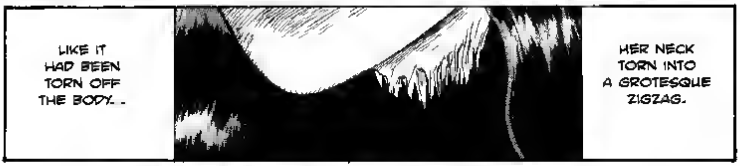
RUMORS OF TERUMI'S GHOST BEGAN TO CIRCULATE.
ON TOP OF ALL THAT
A LARGE GROUP OF FANS SUDDENLY VANISHED, THEIR BODIES ASSUMED TO BE SIMPLY HANGING SOMEWHERE
TERUMI'S DEATH WAS FOLLOWED BY A NUMBER OF COPY-CAT SUICIDES BY YOUNG PEOPLE.
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THE THICK WOODS BEHIND ME. WHILE THIS MAY APPEAR TO BE YOUR NORMAL NEIGHBORHOOD PARK--
REPORTING LIVE AT TOARU PARK--
YEAH.
YOU'VE SEEN THE APPARITION?
WHERE DID IT APPEAR?
WE HAVE EYE-WITNESS REPORTS THAT TERUMI FUJINO'S GHOST HAUNTS THE PREMISES!

IT LINGERED... THEN FLOATED NORTH AND DISAPPEARED
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
HER HEAD?
IT WAS FLOATING IN THE SKY RIGHT OVER THOSE TREES. HER HEAD-- I MEAN.
JUST THE HEAD FROM THE NECK UP. IT WAS HUGE, TOO!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
BUT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS CASE IS NOT AN ISOLATED ONE! THERE HAVE BEEN MULTIPLE REPORTS DESCRIBING THE EXACT SAME PHENOMENON!
WE JUST HEARD THE EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF THESE TWO YOUNG MEN...
AND EVERY SINGLE WITNESS REPORTS SEEING A GIANT HEAD FLOATING IN THE NIGHT SKY!

THERE WAS AN INCIDENT EARLIER WHERE A GROUP OF FANS ALL SAW THE GHOST AND BLACKED OUT FROM MASS HYSTERIA!
MOST OF THE WITNESSES ARE CRAZED FANS.
I CAN THINK OF A LOGICAL EXPLANATION FROM A PSYCHO-LOGICAL STAND-POINT.
WELL, REGARD-LESS OF IF GHOSTS EXIST OR NOT,
PROFESSOR, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF ALL THIS "GHOST MANIA" THAT'S BEEN MAKING HEADLINES?
THE "FLOATING HEAD" REPRESENTS THE MANNER IN WHICH SHE DIED.
THE GRIEF FROM THE LOSS OF A BELOVED IDOL HAS CAUSED THE PUBLIC'S MENTAL STATE TO BECOME UNBALANCED, RESULTING IN MASS HALLUCINATIONS.
PLEASE, CONTINUE.

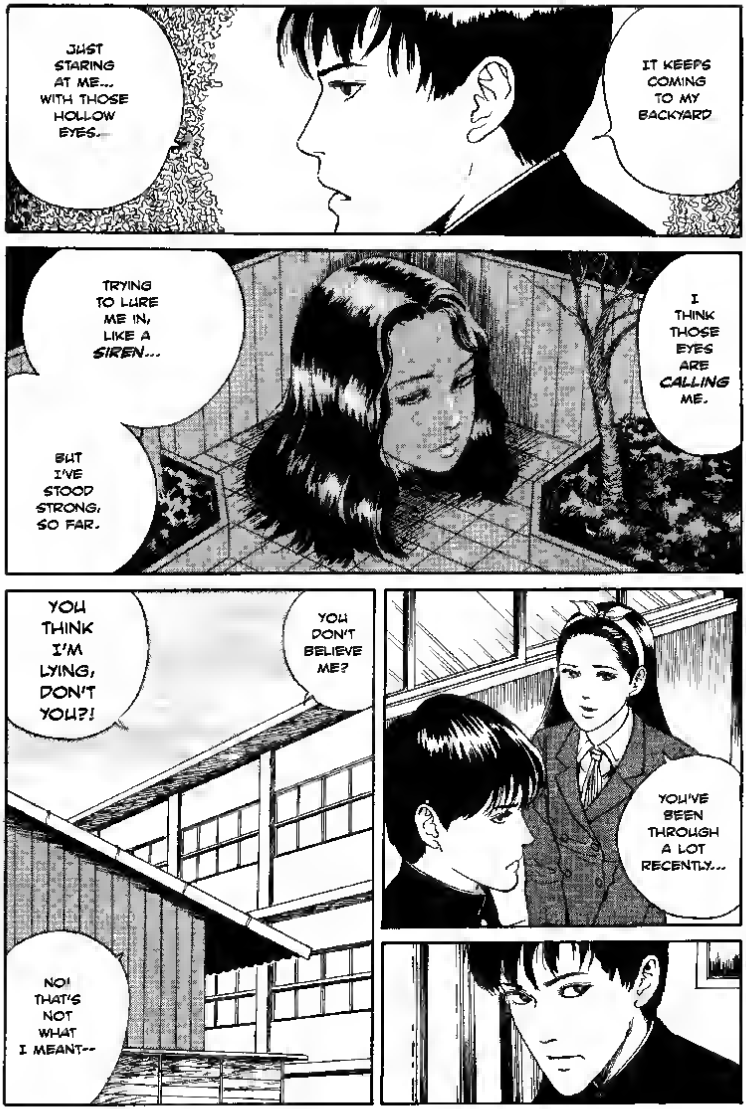
MADNESS BLED FROM FILM, SPILLING INTO OUR REALITY.
BUT, IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE WITNESS PHOTOGRAPHS WERE PUBLICIZED.
IF IT'S A HOAX, IT'S QUITE ELABORATE.
I SMELL A HOAX!
GIVES ME CHILLS!
ワイドショー2
HERE WE HAVE THE PICTURE IN QUESTION...
THAT'S A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY
HER NECK WAS NEARLY TORN OFF BY THE NOOSE... IS THAT WHY THE GHOST IS A DISEMBODIED HEAD?

BUT HER EXPRESSION SPOKE OF THINGS ONLY THE DEAD WOULD KNOW.
THERE WAS NO MISTAKING TERUMI'S HEAD AGAINST THE DARK SKY.


LIKE IT HAD BEEN TORN OFF THE BODY...
HER NECK TORN INTO A GROTESQUE ZIGZAG.

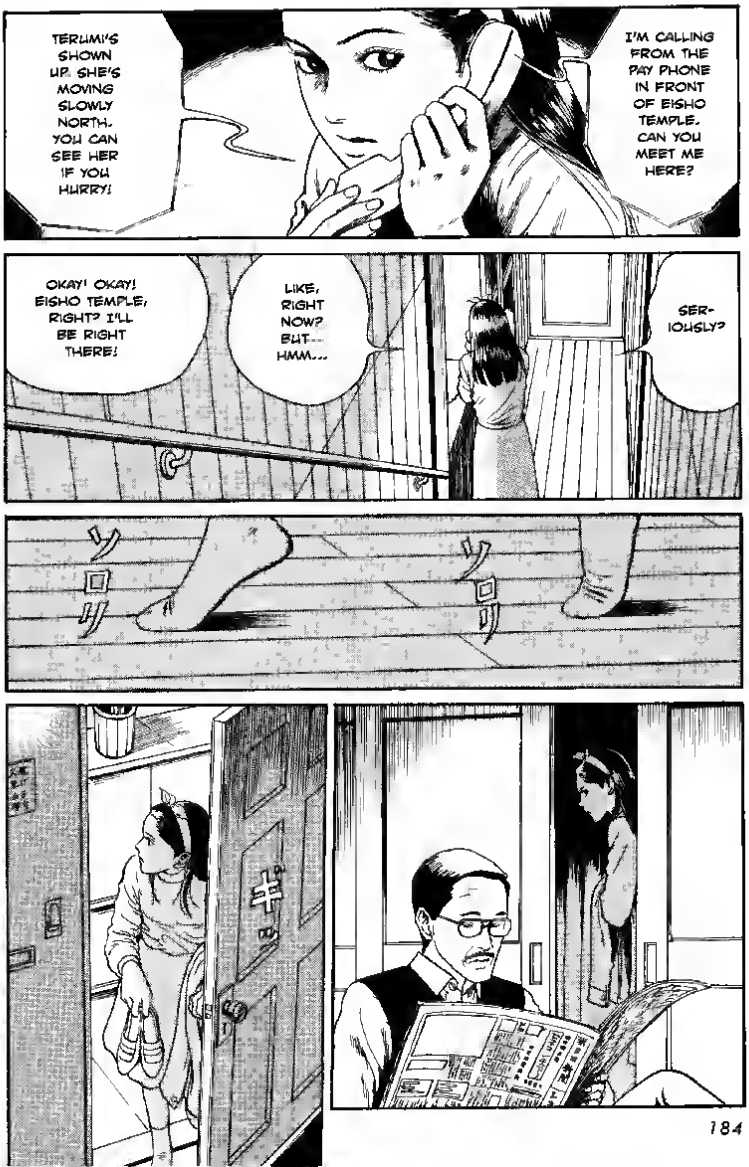
NO WAY COULD IT BE A HOAX-- IT'S TOO COMPLICATED.
IT'S GOTTA BE A HOAX
EVERY-ONE AT SCHOOL WAS OBSESSED WITH THIS STORY.
I THINK IT'S REAL
WANNA PUT SOME MONEY ON IT?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT'S HELLA CREEPY!

HI SHI-ROI-SHI!
YOU'D PISS YOUR PANTS!
I WANNA SEE IT TOO!
I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES!
I JUST MIGHT...
WHAT?!
BOY, THIS WHOLE MESS HAS REALLY GOTTEN OUT OF HAND!
THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I KNOW YOU DON'T BUY INTO THIS WHOLE GHOST THING...


JUST STARING AT ME... WITH THOSE HOLLOW EYES.
IT KEEPS COMING TO MY BACKYARD
TRYING TO LURE ME IN, LIKE A SIREN...
I THINK THOSE EYES ARE CALLING ME.
BUT I'VE STOOD STRONG, SO FAR.
YOU THINK I'M LYING, DON'T YOU?!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT--
YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT RECENTLY...

WAIT!
WHATEVER. COME SEE IT FOR YOURSELF IF YOU'RE GONNA BE LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A TOUGH TIME...
...
TERUMI'S GHOST, HUH...

プルルルル
プルルルル
SIS, TELE-PHONE!
WHO IS IT?
IT'S A BOY
I WON'T TELL DAD!
LITTLE BRO-THERS, UGH!
HELLO?
OH! SHI-ROI-SHI?
HOW ARE YOU?
WHAT?


TERUMI'S SHOWN UP. SHE'S MOVING SLOWLY NORTH. YOU CAN SEE HER IF YOU HURRY!
I'M CALLING FROM THE PAY PHONE IN FRONT OF EISHO TEMPLE. CAN YOU MEET ME HERE?
OKAY! OKAY! EISHO TEMPLE, RIGHT? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
LIKE, RIGHT NOW? BUT--- HMM...
SER-IOUSLY?
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ソロリ
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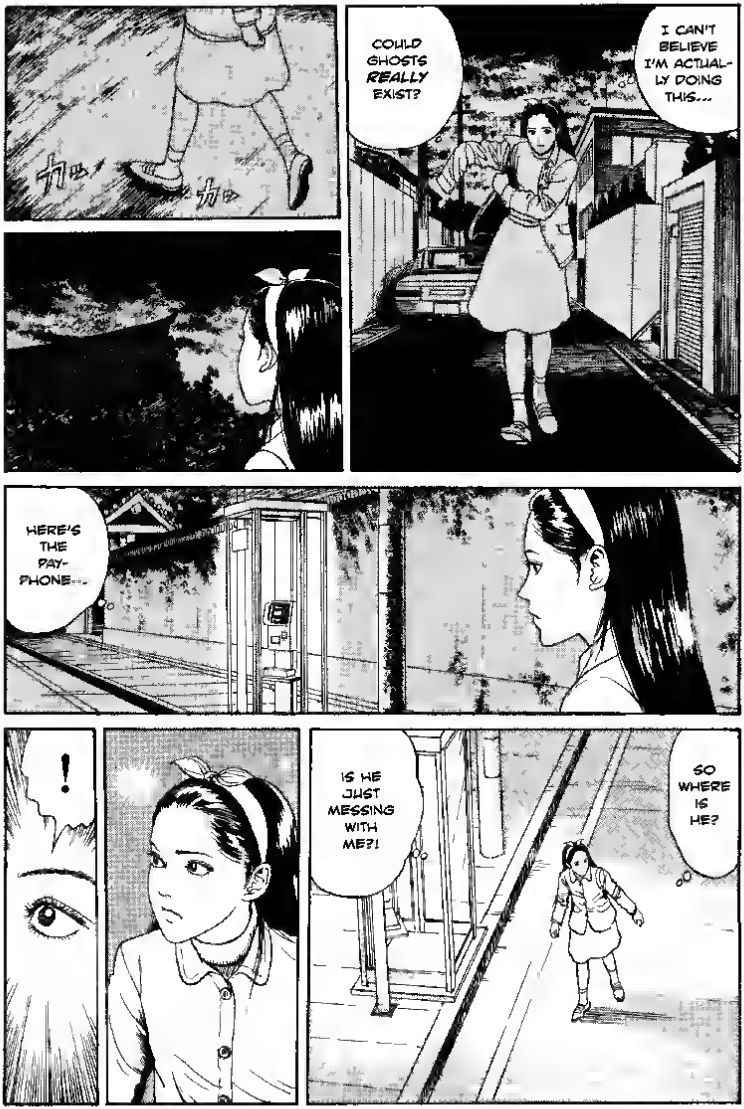
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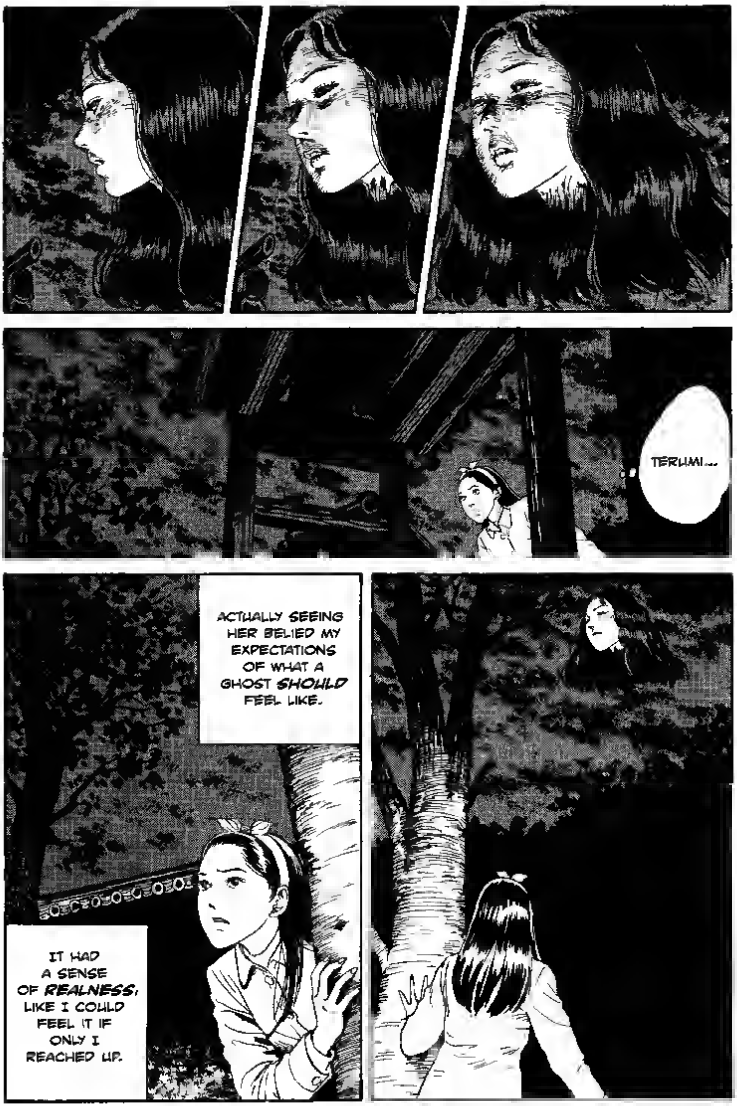
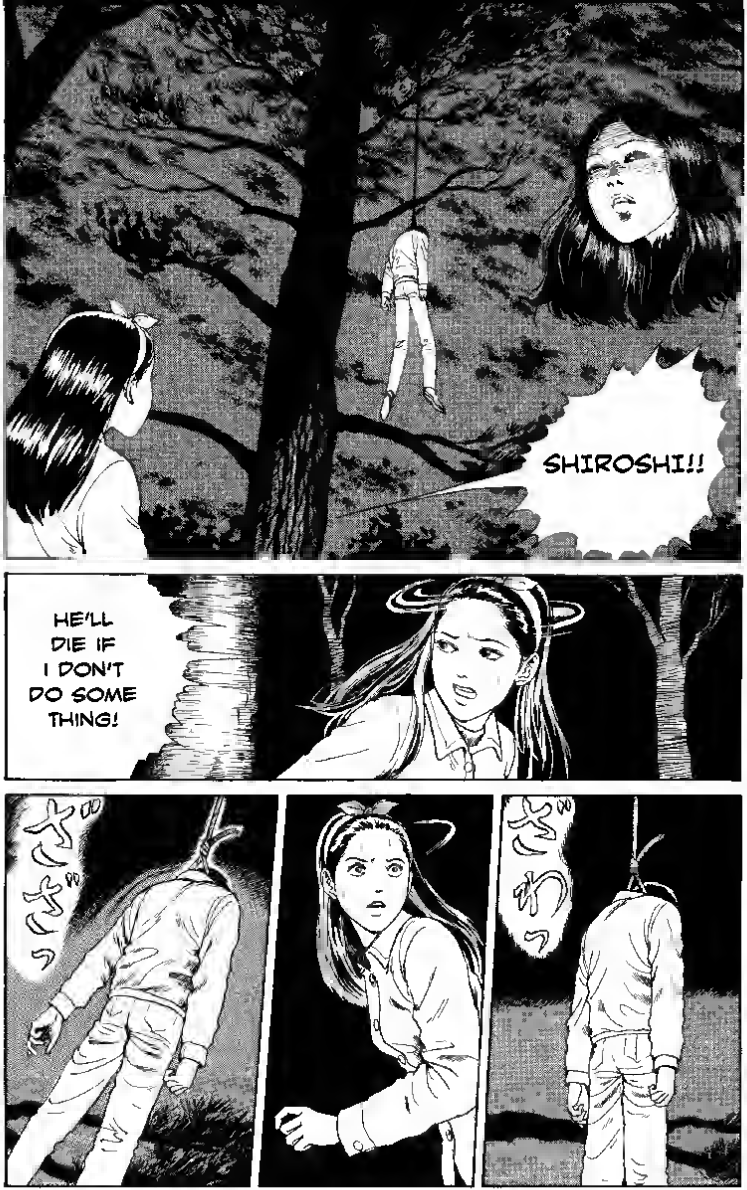
COULD GHOSTS *REALLY* EXIST?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY DOING THIS...
HERE'S THE PAY-PHONE...
!
IS HE JUST MESSING WITH ME?!
SO WHERE IS HE?


TERUMI...
ACTUALLY SEEING HER BELIED MY EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT A GHOST *SHOULD* FEEL LIKE.
IT HAD A SENSE OF *REALNESS*, LIKE I COULD FEEL IT IF ONLY I REACHED UP.

TERUMI!!
TERUMI!!
TER-
UMI!!
HUH?
DON'T
LOOK
AT
ME
LIKE
THAT!
FORGIVE
ME,
TERUMI!
SHI-
ROI-
SHI!!
WHO
IS
THAT--
IT
LOOKS
LIKE--

IT'S GOING TO--
THAT ROPE...
TERUMI!
TERUMI!
EEEEEEEK!
フラン
SHIROISHI! STOP!!
くいっ


SHIROSHI!!
HE'LL DIE IF I DON'T DO SOME THING!
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ぶらーん

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WHAT IS THAT?
WHAT--

AND THE FACE-- IT HAD HIS FACE--

SHIROISHI WAS DANGLING FROM THE WIRE NOOSE HANGING FROM ITS NECK!
ANOTHER GIANT HEAD APPEARED

THE SCENE PLAYING OUT BEFORE ME WAS MONSTROUS BEYOND WORDS.

AUGHHH!
SHIROISHI'S BODY DANCED LIKED A MARIONETTE BENEATH THE HEADS AND THEIR PASSIONATE LIPS

I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! MY FRIEND WAS HANGED AT THE SHRINE BY A GIANT HEAD!
THE HEAD HAD HIS FACE!
AND IT'S KISSING TERUMI FUJINO! WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!
ALRIGHT, LET'S CALM DOWN.
THESE HEADS ARE DOING WHAT, NOW?
I JUST TOLD YOU!
AREN'T YOU LISTENING?! I THOUGHT MY FRIEND HUNG HIMSELF BUT REALLY IT WAS THE GIANT HEAD! UGH!
FOLLOW ME!

OVER THERE!
SO, WHERE'S YOUR FRIEND?
THIS IS IT! THIS IS WHERE I SAW THEM!
HE WAS JUST HANGING THERE, IN THE SKY!
HE MUST HAVE FLOATED OFF SOMEWHERE.
I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT YOUR STORY DOESN'T MAKE SENCE!
YOU SURE IT WASN'T JUST A DREAM?
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED, I COULDN'T GET HIM TO BELIEVE ME.

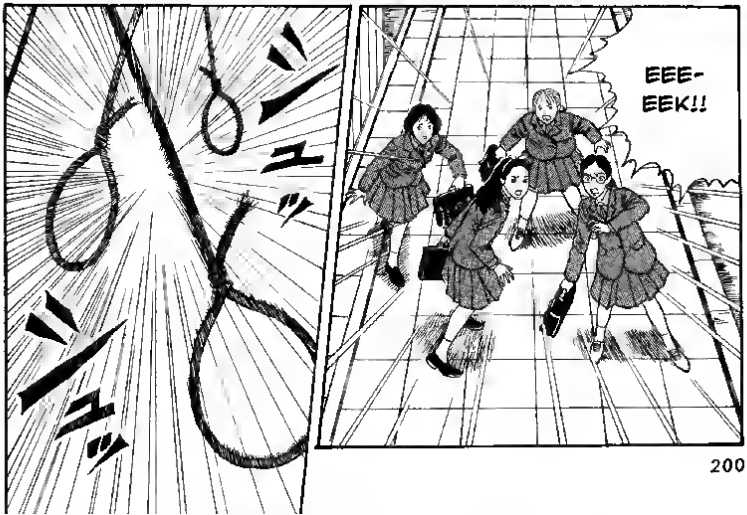
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LYING, BUT...
BUT, SHIROISHI'S MISSING!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME EITHER.
24
TERUMI WAS STRANGLED THE EXACT SAME WAY...
BUT, SHIROISH GETTING STRANGLED BY HIS OWN GIANT HEAD?
IT'S JUST TOO WEIRD...
THAT'S TRUE...
IT WAS HANGING FROM THE PHONE WIRE, SO IT LOOKED LIKE A SUICIDE
I THINK THE WIRE NOOSE HANGING FROM THE GHOST'S NECK IS THE SAME ONE TERUMI WAS DANGLING FROM.
HUH?

KAZUKO, THAT'S ENOUGH! YOU'RE CREEPING ME OUT!
IT'S FLOATING SOMEWHERE OUT THERE WITH HIS DANGLING BODY...
THAT "HEAD" EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT IS STILL OUT THERE, DRIFTING.
ALONG WITH SHIROSHI'S "HEAD".
THINK ABOUT IT...
...
THERE.
WHAT COULD THAT BE?
HEY... LOOK AT THAT.
WHAT? WHERE?

I CAN'T MAKE IT OUT... THEY'RE TOO FAR AWAY.
IT LOOKS KINDA LIKE BALLOONS...
I SEE FOUR.
MAYBE THEY'RE AD BALLOONS THAT GOT LOOSE?
NO, THEIR SHAPES ARE TOO ODD FOR THAT...
WAIT A SEC... ARE THOSE?
NO, IT COULDN'T BE...
WHAT?
LOOK AGAIN! THOSE ARE ROPES!
ROPES AND HUMAN HEADS!

DON'T YOU START TOO, CHIHARU!
AND THEY DO LOOK LIKE HUMAN HEADS...
THOSE ARE DEFINITELY STRINGS .. IT LOOKS LIKE THE ENDS ARE TIED INTO LOOPS
ARE THEY GETTING CLOSER?
AM I IMAGINING THINGS, OR..
LOOK!
OH, MY GOD.
WHAT DO THEY WANT?!
WHAT? NO WAY!
THEY'RE GAINING SPEED!
THOSE ARE OUR FACES!
THOSE ARE...

ビュ
WHY DO THEY LOOK LIKE US?!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ヒュッ
EEE-EEK!!

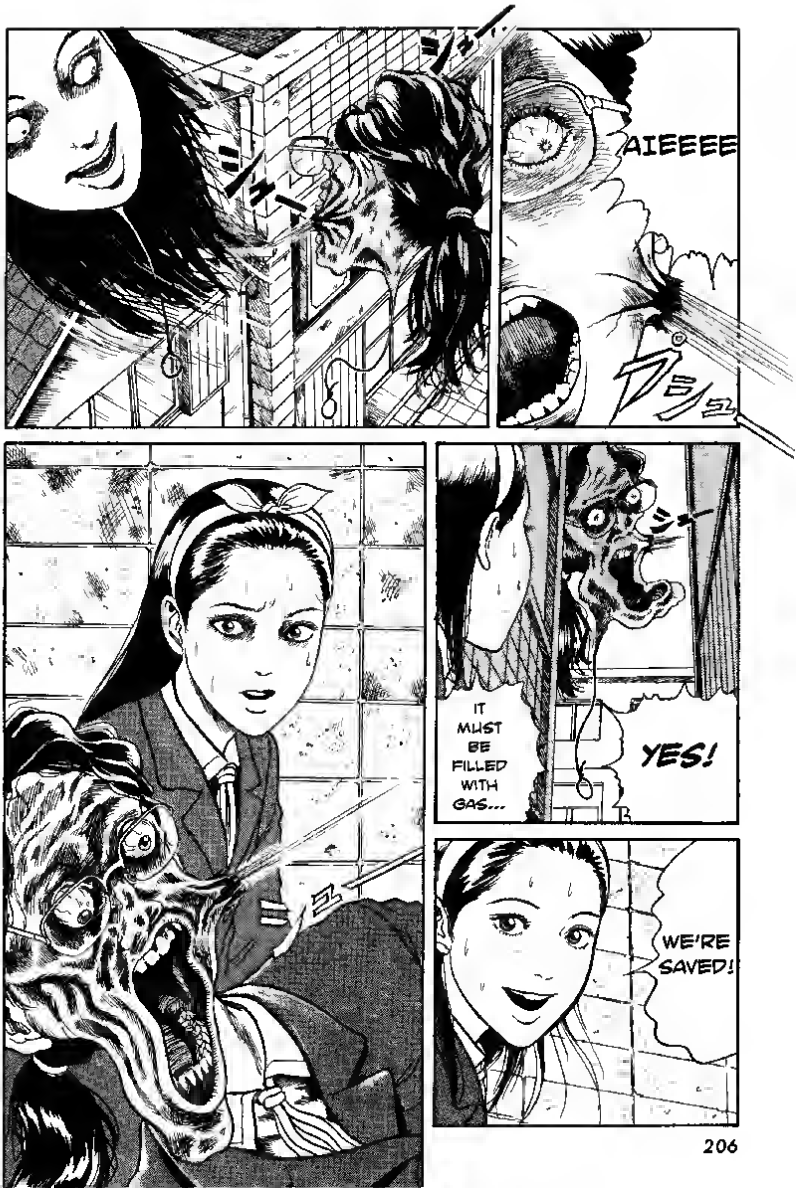
URK!
KAZUKO! ABOVE YOU!
EEEK! TAEKO, MIYUKI!

EEE!
THIS WAY!
ヒュ〜
タッ
I'M SCARED
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING.

WHAT FOR?!
THEY'RE TRYING TO STRANGLE US!
THOSE ARE OUR FACES!
WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?!
BUT THOSE ARE OUR FRIENDS HANGING!
I DON'T KNOW!
AAH!
WE HAVEN'T DONE ANY-THING!
WHY-- WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?!

AAH!
DEAR GOD, ANYBODY...
EEK!
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?!
ガラッ
SOME-BODY, PLEASE, HELP US!!

HOLY SHIT!
?
LOOK!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
HOLD ON... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!
EAT THIS!
ピシッ
ピシッ

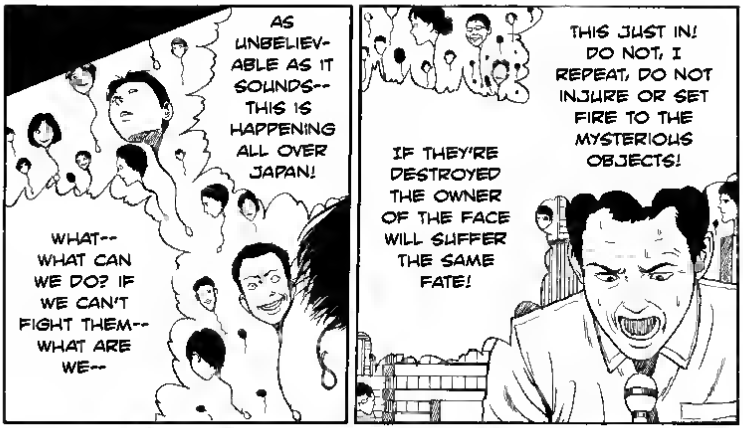

AIEEEE
IT MUST BE FILLED WITH GAS...
YES!
WE'RE SAVED!

ニンニ
ニンニ
I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.
HAH... HAH.
THE NEXT THING I KNEW I WAS HOME
AAHHH!
HAH...
I MADE IT!

MAKE IT STOP!

WHERE COULD THEY ALL COME FROM?
WHERE COULD THEY...
DEAR GOD... THERE'S MOM... DAD... EVEN, YOSUKE!
THESE HEADS MUST HAVE COME TO HANG THEIR OWNERS! EVERYONE IN TOKYO!
EEEK!

WHERE ON EARTH DID THEY FROM?
YOU CAN SEE THE VICTIMS IN THE SKY, HUNG BY THEIR NECKS!
JAPAN IS UNDER ATTACK BY STRANGE FLYING OBJECTS!
IT'S COME HERE TO KILL ME.
I'VE SEEN MY OWN FACE AMONG THE FLOCK--
WHAT'S THIS?
ALSO...
IT ISN'T SAFE! IF YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST GO OUTSIDE, PLEASE, USE A CAR!
STAY INSIDE YOUR HOMES!


AS UNBELIEV-ABLE AS IT SOUNDS-- THIS IS HAPPENING ALL OVER JAPAN!
WHAT-- WHAT CAN WE DO? IF WE CAN'T FIGHT THEM-- WHAT ARE WE--
THIS JUST IN! DO NOT, I REPEAT, DO NOT INJURE OR SET FIRE TO THE MYSTERIOUS OBJECTS!
IF THEY'RE DESTROYED THE OWNER OF THE FACE WILL SUFFER THE SAME FATE!

ARE YOU CRAZY?!
WELL, I'M OFF TO WORK! THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF BY TOMORROW!

WHAT A GODDAMN MESS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS.

I THOUGHT OF A STRATEGY LAST NIGHT...
I'LL SAFE-GUARD MY NECK.
IF I CAN MAKE IT FROM THE FRONT DOOR TO THE CAR I'M SAFE, RIGHT?
I'LL BE FINE.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
JUST WATCH.
BUT...
ガチャッ
ガッ
DON'T!
SEE YOU AROUND SIX. HAVE THE BATH READY.

THERE YOU ARE!
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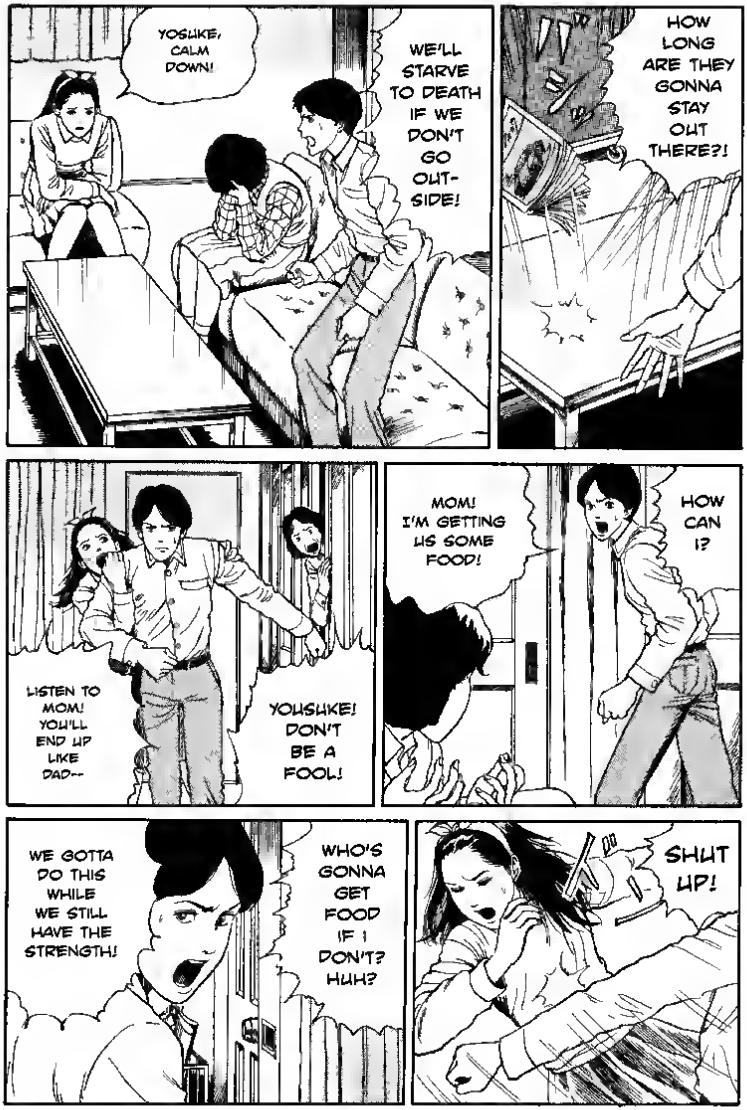
ダ
UWAAGHH!
ドキッ

NO!
DAD!
BAST-
ARDS!
がくがく


YOSUKE, CALM DOWN!
WE'LL STARVE TO DEATH IF WE DON'T GO OUT-SIDE!
HOW LONG ARE THEY GONNA STAY OUT THERE?!
LISTEN TO MOM! YOU'LL END UP LIKE DAD--
YOUSUKE! DON'T BE A FOOL!
MOM! I'M GETTING US SOME FOOD!
HOW CAN I?
WE GOTTA DO THIS WHILE WE STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH!
WHO'S GONNA GET FOOD IF I DON'T? HUH?
SHUT UP!

I'LL BE BACK WITH FOOD!
DON'T WORRY SIS, THEY WON'T GET ME!
I'LL STAB EM WITH THIS!
THEY WON'T GET ME WITHOUT A FIGHT!
YOSUKE!
YO-SUKE...
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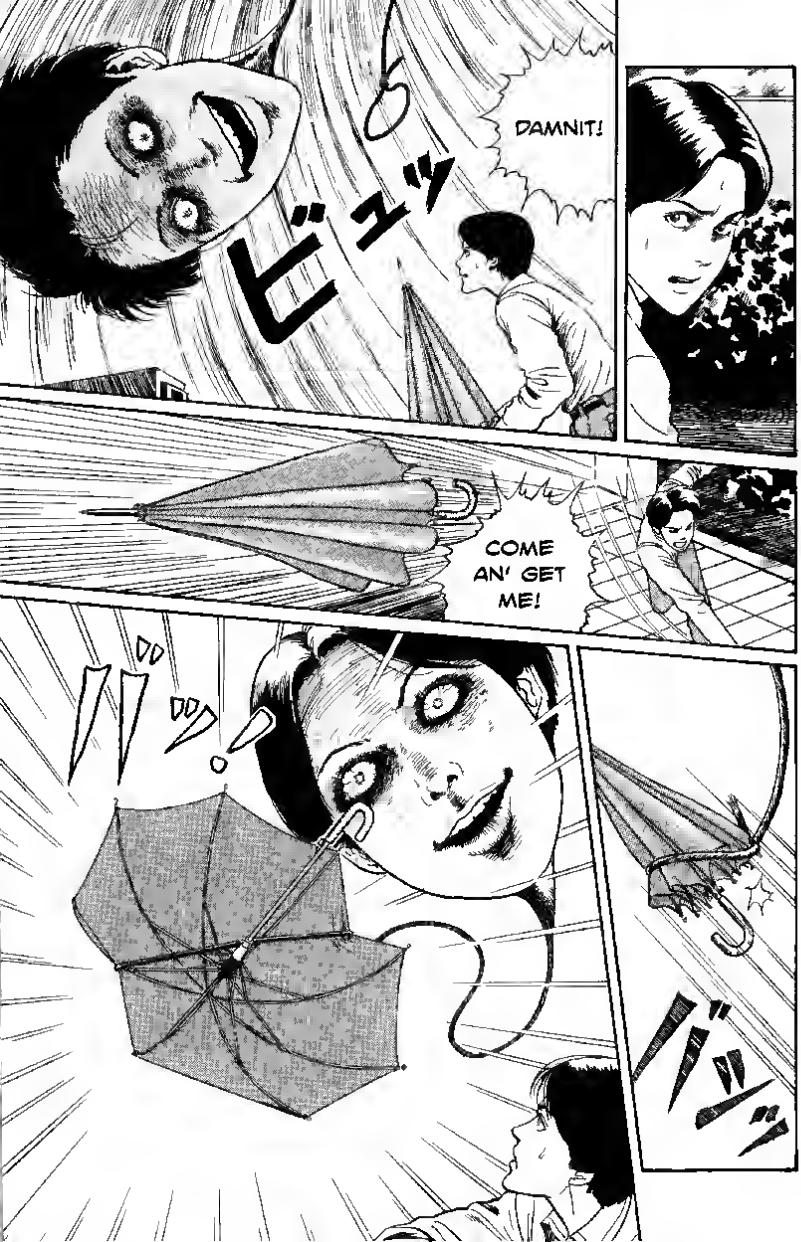
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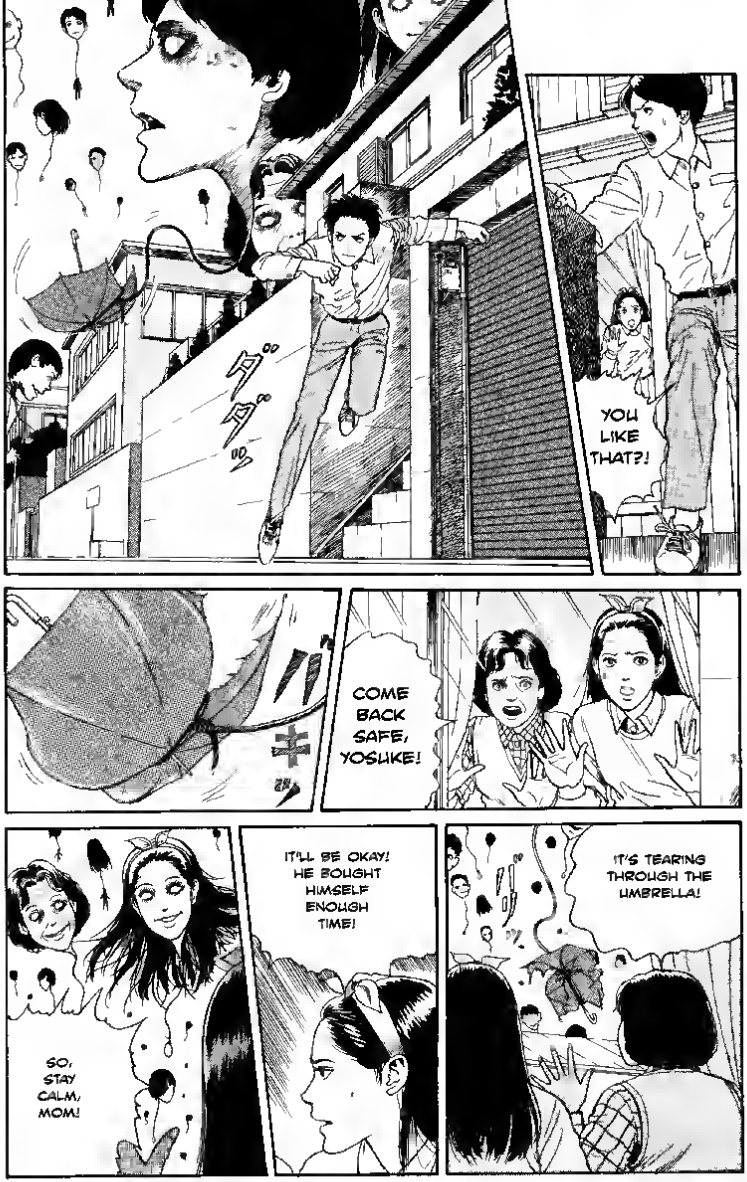
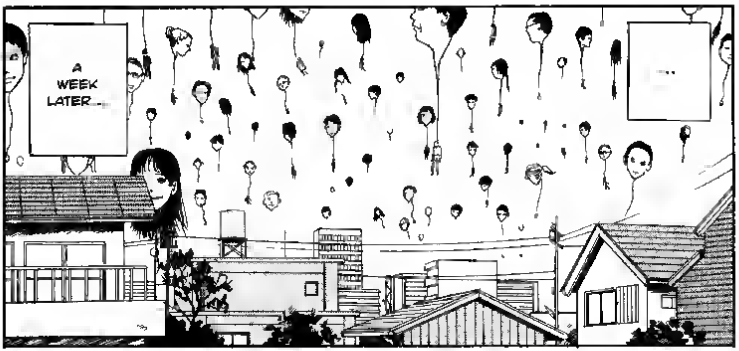
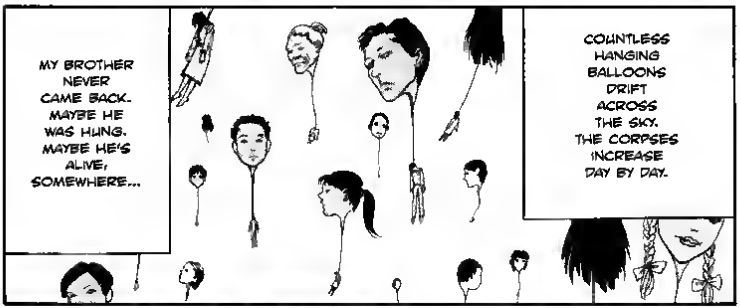
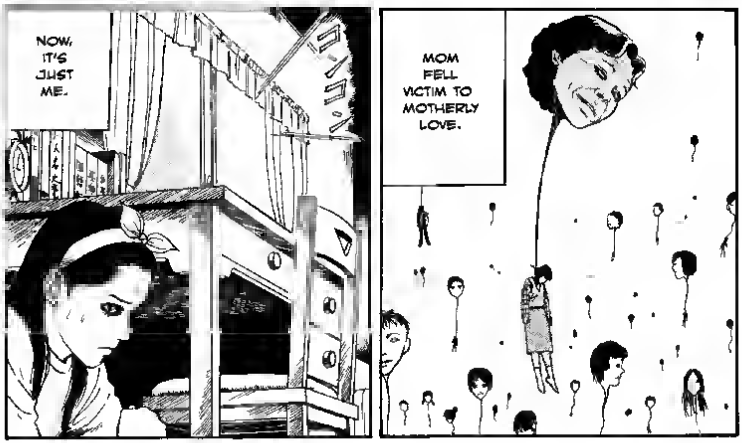
DAMNIT!
COME AN' GET ME!
バッ
バッ

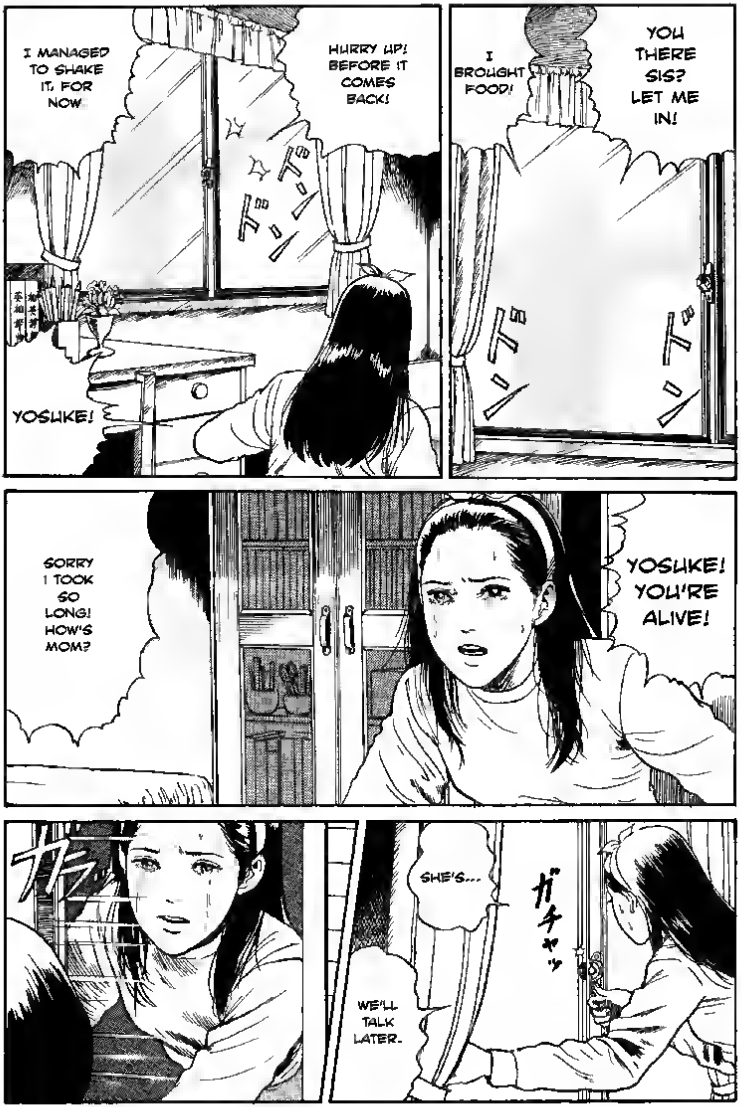

YOU LIKE THAT?!
COME BACK SAFE, YOSUKE!
IT'LL BE OKAY! HE BOUGHT HIMSELF ENOUGH TIME!
IT'S TEARING THROUGH THE UMBRELLA!
SO, STAY CALM, MOM!


A WEEK LATER...
...


MY BROTHER NEVER CAME BACK. MAYBE HE WAS HUNG. MAYBE HE'S ALIVE, SOMEWHERE...
COUNTLESS HANGING BALLOONS DRIFT ACROSS THE SKY. THE CORPSES INCREASE DAY BY DAY.


NOW, IT'S JUST ME.
MOM FELL VICTIM TO MOTHERLY LOVE.

KAZUKO... OPEN THE WINDOW!
LET SOME AIR IN!
KAZUKO! ARE YOU LISTENING?
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING? TRYING TO ACT TOUGH!
NOT ONLY DOES IT HAVE MY FACE--
IT SOUNDS EXACTLY LIKE ME.
AHH! I'M GONNA GO CRAZY AND DIE.
I WISH SOMEONE WOULD HELP ME! ANYONE!
HEY, SIS!
SIS! YOU THERE?!
SIS!
HUH?


I MANAGED TO SHAKE IT, FOR NOW
HURRY UP! BEFORE IT COMES BACK!
ドン ドン
YOSUKE!
I BROUGHT FOOD!
YOU THERE SIS? LET ME IN!
ドン ドン
SORRY I TOOK SO LONG! HOW'S MOM?
YOSUKE! YOU'RE ALIVE!
ガラ
SHE'S...
ガチャッ
WE'LL TALK LATER.

YOH-
SUKE...
THANKS
FOR
LETTING
ME IN,
SIS.
END.ちわり

ピアス、タトゥ

阿部幸弘

伊藤潤二ファンならば
不可思議に彩られている
例えば、本コレクショ
た富江同士がお互いを
は心まで占領してしまう
富江にせよ誰にせよ、
様々な不可思議の迷路に
ングでもあるのだが。
「顔泥棒」ではどうだ
確かに不気味だし驚く
命にかかわる危機では
〝自分自身〟というモノ
ない人間が自分の名を

にけではなく、様々な
てもそうだ。分裂し
ったあげく、ついに
か?」とか、「いや、
体何だろう?」とか、
が、なかなかスリリ
前に現れれば、それは
だけなら、それが即、
ん当然と思っている
誰にも見分けのつか
の途端、自分自身が

Piercings, Tattoos, and Junji Ito

By Yukihiro Abe

As a fan of Junji Ito's work, you already know that its appeal not only lies in the element of fear, but in the fantastical as well

The "Tomie" serials that make up a bulk of the first two collections are an example of this. Those that collaborated in dismembering Tomie plot to turn on one another and as you see their bodies and eventually minds be taken over by outside forces you ask yourself as you wander through this mystifying labyrinth, "what exactly is Tomie?" Or rather, "what exactly is this thing that I call 'myself?'" This sense of confusion you experience is half the fun

How does "The Face Thief" fare by comparison? The sudden appearance of someone who looked identical to you would certainly be a disquieting surprise. But if you think about it, there's nothing lite threatening about someone merely looking like you The real fear comes from having the rug pulled out from under this concept of self that we take for granted Someone indiscernible from yourself comes and claims your name, shaking your position in society In that instant you lose sight of who you are and the confusion sets in

何者かを見失い混乱し
ここで唐突だが、顔
てみよう(伊藤先生、
で人を魅惑し操ること
っと亀井は、富江に出
い。一方富江は、たと
亀井を抹殺しようと企
不利だろうか。だが、
られて、どちらがどち
いない。
だが、どうして富江
においては、絵画的な
ができるからだ。これ
とだが、現代のいかな
ている可能性がある。
そして、時代や文化で
物であれ、富江が仮に
ばならなくなる。人を
らう段階が必要なのだ

Let's mix it up a bit with a simulated battle Kanai the face thief and Tomie
(Sorry for taking liberties here Mr. Ito!) As we all know, Tomie's strategy involves using her unparalleled beauty to charm and manipulate others. Kanai is the exact opposite in that she steals her opponents' beauty by sticking close to them. It's safe to say that once Kanai and Tomie met, Kanai would latch onto Tomie until she stole her beauty. However, as Tomie's pride won't allow for the existence of anyone more beautiful then herself she would plot to kill Kanai.
This puts Kanai at a slight disadvantage as she needs to stay close to her target to steal their face. Regardless of how the story unfolds, we'd end up with twin Sirens directing those around them in a theatre of chaos.

But how is it that Tomie's beauty can last forever? As this is manga she is given both artistic beauty and the sign of beauty. Compare this to a theoretical film version of "Tomie" and this becomes suddenly clear to us. Even if they used the most beautiful young actress available, come 10 to 20 years later the definition of beauty will have changed. The definition of beauty in our modern world is decided by the people that populate it, and their values shift with passage of time. Assuming that a creature such as Tomie were to exist in our world she would first have to comprehend the concept of beauty at the time. She needs to understand what people hold to be beautiful before she can use that beauty to bend them to her will. If you look at it that way, both Tomie and Kanai begin as passive participants.

なるかシミュレートし
のように、最高の美貌
美貌を盗むことだ。き
たり貼り付くに違いな
ないその傲慢さから、
する亀井の方が、やや
になった美少女達に操
堕落に堕ちて行くに違

は、マンガという世界
時に人物に与えること
とすればすぐ分かるこ
は美人の定義が変わっ
とは世間が決めるもの、
とすると、たとえ異生
美を常に意識しなけれ
手に美しいと思っても
ター ト地点では受け身

でいるしかない存在だ
江とは、つまるところ
いからこそどこまでも
美しくありたいと願
とに支配され、我々は
で不可思議な結論では
る。そして、伊藤潤二
なのだ。作品のあちこ
と醜さ、魅惑と窃視、
の持つこの種の矛盾に
何らかの異常が現れる
まずは注がれる場所だ
の緊張を孕んだ濃い意
典型は、もちろん富江
ここで私は、はたと、
時に人格までも、一定
した所に、直に皮膚を
的嫌悪をもよおさせ、
いずれにせよ、皮膚に

While her unfaltering beauty owes itself to the medium of manga, too put it bluntly this beauty has zero net worth
Her beauty, like money, has no intrinsic value, thus allowing her empty existence to travel anywhere

Even though we are the ones wishing to be beautiful, our beauty is decided by those around us
Are we to be controlled by this and be forced to live an empty existence with no worth? This may be an extremely bizarre and unconventional theory, but humans by nature carry inside them this sort of hollow void
Junji Ito has cut into the heart of this issue with cold precision. He repeats variations on the same themes
Cleanliness and filth, beauty and ugliness, attraction and longing, freedom and restriction. The manner of presentation is diverse but they all connect to these same contradictions we carry as humans
This is what makes stories in which the body undergoes bizarre changes such as "Red String" so compelling
Our skin and faces are under the constant scrutiny of others. Everyone can relate to the peculiar type of tension between ourselves and others brought about by a change in our visual derma
(A fitting example from Junji Ito's works would be Tomie's mole)

This led me to think about tattoos and piercings and their rise in popularity. Modern society demands a specific standard of cleanliness, beauty, and at times personal character. Tattoos and piercings decorate the skin by damaging it directly, fall into an area outside of those demands. This trend elicits disgust in some and thoughts of the fashion's voodoo roots in others. All parties can agree that energizes that part of the body with a new magnetism. It's times like this that Junji Ito's works and our current zeitgeist fall into synch with each other

の美女でいられる富
江のように、内実がな
という他人が決めるこ
とを得ない!? 大変奇妙
ちさを確かに持ってい
に観を持っている作家
清潔と不潔、美しさ
多彩だが、どれも人間
の作品で、顔や皮膚に
に膚は、他人の視線が
、自他の間である種
（伊藤作品の中でその
生った。清潔や美しさ、
社会の求めを少しずら
行は、ある者には生理
思い出させるだろう。
ない。このような時

代の動きと伊藤潤二作
とりわけ私は、身ぎ
と世の中が要請するの
が求められるのは分か
考えるほど謎ではない
選択をしているだけな
こう考えると大変息
ある。「首吊り気球」に
巨大な自分の顔が、本
と同時に、不思議とな

More then anything, I find it strange how the world values independent thought and expression over cleanliness and sociability While I understand that independent thought is desirable in our daily life the origins of our will and judgment is still great mystery It may be that our decision making merely allows for the illusion of independent thought

Thinking like this gives me an attack of the creeps, but thankfully I have the horror of Junji Ito close at hand I can see the floating heads from "The Hanging Balloons," those empty faces drifting on tumes with my body dangling beneath As a chill runs down my spine I feel relieved, knowing that I'm not the only one

-Yukihiro Abe
Manga critic

のは間違いない。
〝主体的な考えを持て〟
な意味で〝主体性〟
一体どこから来るのか、
なしてもらえるような
には伊藤潤二ホラーが
面（そとづら）だけの
かべると、ぞっとする
私だけではないはずだ。
ひろ・マンガ評論家）

Credits:

#CH1

Cleaning, translation and lettering
leveling

#CH2

#CH3

translation and

#CH4-5

and lettering

#CH6

Clean translation and letter Michael S
leveling by Dilic